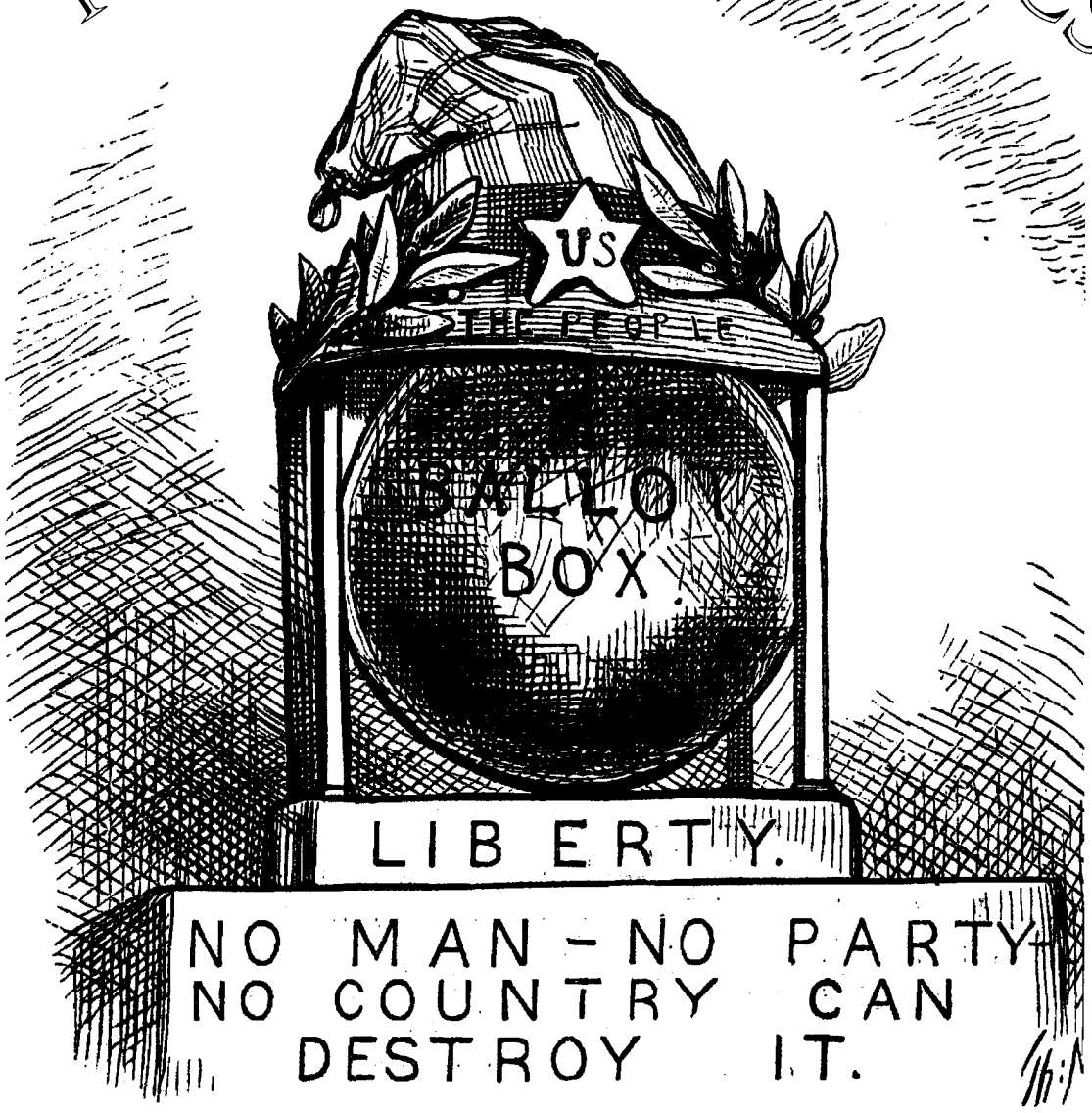
Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
Chesapeake Bay DE MD

Shoreline

Vol. 11, No. 3 • March 2004

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

PERENNIAL POLITICS



OF THE EASTERN SHORE

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Director's Dialogue

from Becky Miller

As the nation embarks on its election year journey, we thought it would be interesting to take a look at the role politics and politicians of the past played in our heritage. In this issue, you'll read about congressmen, governors and presidents from various periods of our history and the way they touched our lives. You'll even see how the politics of England and Scotland affected the early settlement of America.

As the year unfolds, the staff at the Nabb Center is especially excited about its participation in a Teaching American History grant recently awarded to the Wicomico County Board of Education by the Department of Education. Partnering with Salisbury University's departments of History and Education, this three-year award offers a unique opportunity to illustrate the significance of local history to students of all ages. The Nabb Center's facilities and materials are an integral part of the grant; we hope that by finding value in their own community and acquiring a sense of cultural heritage, the students will discover how this region fits into the national cultural heritage landscape.

In addition to thanking our guest writers and donors of material items for our library and archives, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters who help us through their membership contributions and their participation in our fundraising activities. We hope many of you will be able to attend our upcoming annual fundraising event at the beautiful historic home of "Clifton."

Cover photo courtesy of *We The People*. 1975. Washington Smithsonian Institution Press.

Submissions

Anyone interested in submitting an article to the *Shoreline* newsletter should send their item to the newsletter editor as follows:

Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

or send an e-mail to
rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Hours & Closings

HOURS
Monday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS
Memorial Day - Monday, May 31
4th of July - Monday, July 5

Remembering

The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture would like to extend its most heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Maurice Wilson Bozman who passed away January 23, 2004. Bozman, originally from Upper Fairmount, Somerset County, was a retired educator and professor at Salisbury University.

Shirley Wilson Richards, Somerset County's official appointed historian, recently passed away, leaving her love of local history behind in her memorable "Yesteryear's" columns for the Somerset Herald.

Mrs. Richards will be remembered for many historical activities not least of which was the discovery of the 1723-1759 tax lists of Somerset County, used as wrapping paper on other documents.

Sources Note: Due to space constrictions, the primary and secondary bibliographic sources used in the articles are not printed but are available upon request in the Nabb Research Center.

Shoreline

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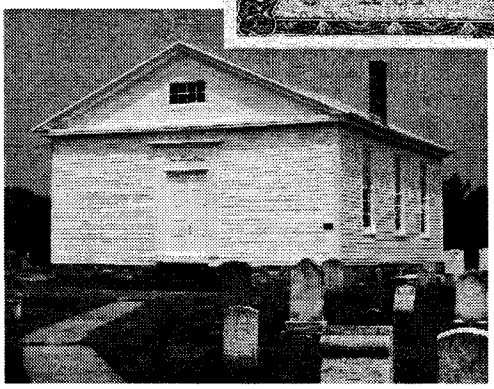

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Disappearing Delmarva

PERENNIAL POLITICS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

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Nixon in Salisbury, 1952

Volume 11 No. 3 March 2004

Director, Rebecca F. Miller. *Archivist*, Rebecca Brooks. *Research Assistant*, Aaron Horner. *Administrative Assistant*, Donna Messick. *Library Technician/Web Designer*, Iris Powell. *Graduate Assistants*, Mercedes Quesada-Embid and James Jensen.

This issue and back issues of the *Shoreline* may be purchased for $10 each by contacting us at 410-543-6312 or rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

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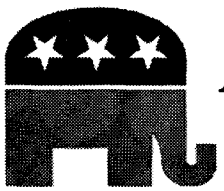
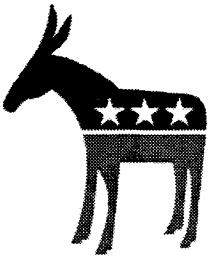


Political Enthusiasts Take Note



by Rebecca Brooks

Archives, like the one at the Nabb Center, often are filled with materials relating to a variety of subjects. Our focus at the Nabb Center is everything and anything Delmarva, and this undeniably includes politics. As far as archival materials are concerned, there are numerous items that are political in nature: papers of politicians; published materials, such as newspapers, magazines and books; footage, be it audio or video; photographs; broadsides and artifacts. Because the focus of this issue of *Shoreline* is politics, I've culled out some items of interest to political enthusiasts.

One of the most popular types of material in our archives is the scrapbook-scrapbooks from the John Jacob Collection contain clippings on a variety of topics, but this page has a newspaper clipping presenting the Official Election Returns for Wicomico County in addition to returns for other parts of the shore, the state and the country.
(Figure A)

Another electoral item, is the piece from the August 25, 1877, *Salisbury Advertiser*. This is a call to select two delegates to represent Democrats at the County Convention by the Democratic Central Committee for Wicomico County. This newspaper comes from our Wicomico Free Library Collection.
(Figure B)

Also prominent in newspapers are political advertisements. This advertisement, from the Sylvia Bradley Collection, contains a photograph and calls Ira D. Turner, "the man who has the most practical knowledge of the conduct of this office." Unfortunately the particular newspaper is unknown, but Turner was running for Clerk of Court of Wicomico County.
(Figure C)

Modern newspaper inserts, such as "Potomac," from *The Washington Post* put candidates face to face, literally. This item comes from our vertical files. The cover of this insert about the 1976 United States presidential election mentions other types of political memorabilia: television commercials. Media archives are filled with commercials, televised debates, not to mention early radio broadcasts of events such as Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats."
(Figure D)

Even newspapers aimed at America's youth have been known to cover political issues. This cover from *Young America* is also part of our vertical files.
(Figure E)

Another printed item in our archives, this Kennedy-Johnson advertisement, is from the Sylvia Bradley Collection. It contains information on platform issues as well as personal data about the candidates.
(Figure F)

One final newspaper item is this political cartoon. Although undated, one can ascertain from the mention of (Clement Laird) Vallandigham and (Horatio) Seymour that this items dates from the Civil War era. Political cartoons are a great resource, as they often characterize the sentiments of many and do so in a fashion to which a lot of people can relate. This cartoon comes from the John Jacob Collection.
(Figure G)

Other printed materials, such as magazines, often contain many of the same political items as newspapers: cartoons, advertisements and articles. *The World's Work* from June 1916 has a special photograph section dedicated to political conventions. One photograph is from the 1912 Democratic Convention in Baltimore. This issue and others of the same publication are from the Thomas Price Collection.
(Figure H)

In our collections we also have an admission pass to the 1912 Democratic Convention in Baltimore. This piece and the McKinley-Hobart celluloid button are some of the ephemera from the Fred Bradley Collection.
(Figure I)

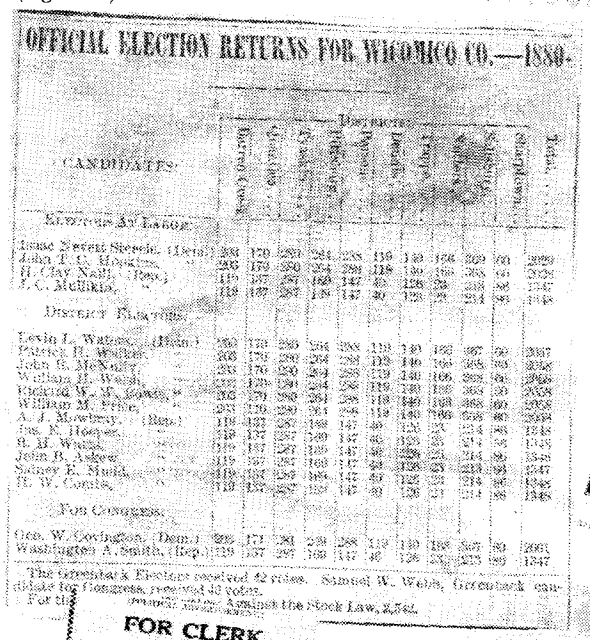
A rather unique item, from our vertical file, is this business card sized piece of GOP propaganda.
(Figure J)

Another item from the Sylvia Bradley Collection is the Official Inaugural Program from January 21, 1961. This item contains pieces written by many notable Americans - Carl Sandburg, James A. Michener and Robert Frost.
(Figure K)

This final piece is the Official Ballot for the Fifth Election District of Wicomico County from November 5, 1895. This ballot, from the Margaret Stone collection, compliments the Official Ballot from the First Election District of Worcester County, from the George Gering Collection.
(Figure L)

This is only a small survey of the political items in our collections. We have many books on the stacks in the reading room which deal with politics from discovery to modern day. In the archives we also have the papers of Maryland State Legislator, Mary Layfield Nock, and Maryland State Senator, Edgar T. Bennett. We always welcome donations of local, political ephemera including banners, broadsides, bumper stickers, buttons and pins, calendars, hats, magnets and ribbons.

(Figure A)



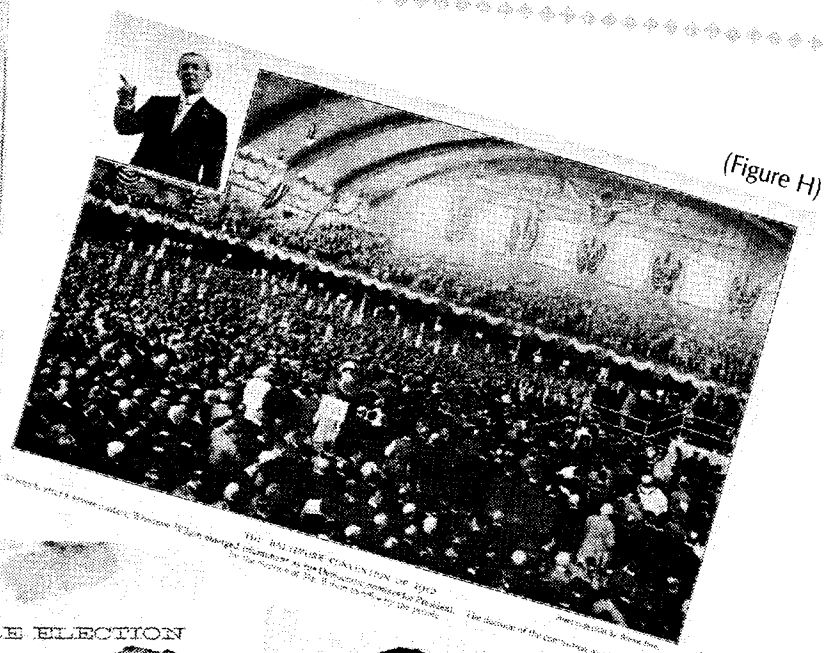
OFFICIAL ELECTION RETURNS FOR WICOMICO CO.—1880.

CANDIDATES.	Dennis's	Quantico	Salisbury	Parsons's	Tyaskin	Nanticoke	Bivalve	Quindocqua	Whitehaven	Upper Ferry	Total.
Electors at Large.											
Isaac Jones Steele, (Dem.)	208	170	280	254	255	139	140	156	269	90	2003
John T. C. Hopkins,	206	179	280	254	259	138	140	156	265	91	2028
H. Clay Nash, (Rep.)	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
F. C. Mellikin,	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
District Electors.											
Levin L. Waters, (Dem.)	205	170	280	254	255	139	140	156	269	90	2008
Patrick H. Wallace,	208	170	280	254	259	139	140	156	265	91	2012
John G. McCoy,	206	179	280	254	259	138	140	156	265	91	2028
William H. Wells,	206	179	280	254	259	139	140	156	265	91	2029
Richard W. M. Jones, "	208	170	280	254	256	139	140	156	265	90	2008
William M. Price, "	205	170	280	254	256	139	140	156	265	90	2005
A. J. Mowbray, (Rep.)	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
Jas. K. Hooper, "	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
R. H. Wells, "	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
John B. Adams, "	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
Sidney E. Smith, "	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
H. W. Combs, "	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345
For Congress.											
Geo. W. Covington, (Dem.)	205	170	280	254	255	139	140	156	269	90	2008
Washington A. Smith, (Rep.)	119	157	287	168	147	40	126	25	224	96	1345

The Greenback Electors received 42 votes. Samuel W. Wells, Greenback candidate for Congress, received 42 votes.

For the [illegible] Against the Stock Law, 2,744.

(Figure H)



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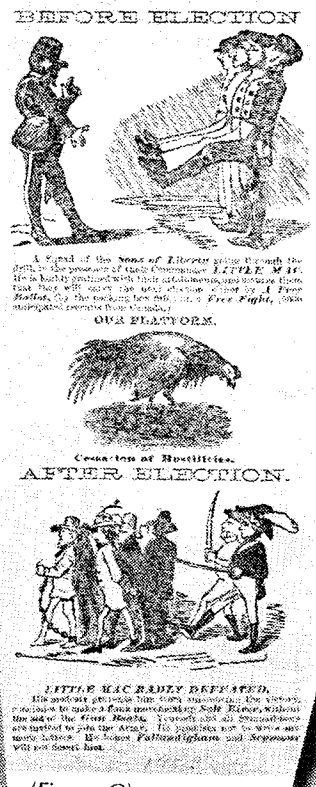


(Figure G)

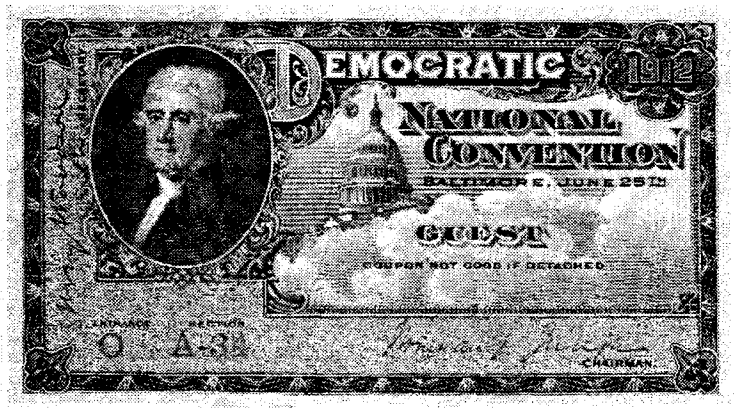
(Figure F)

(Figure D)

(Figure E)

(Figure I)

(Figure L)



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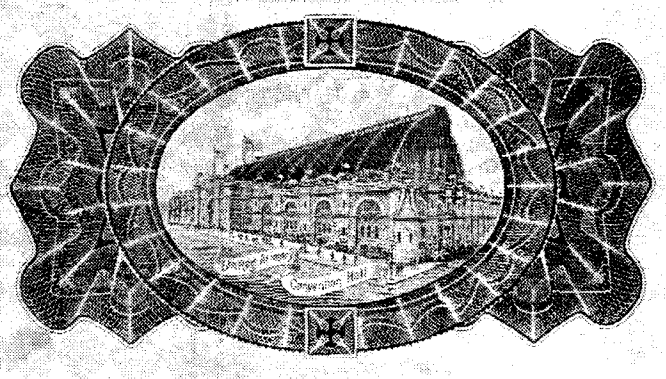
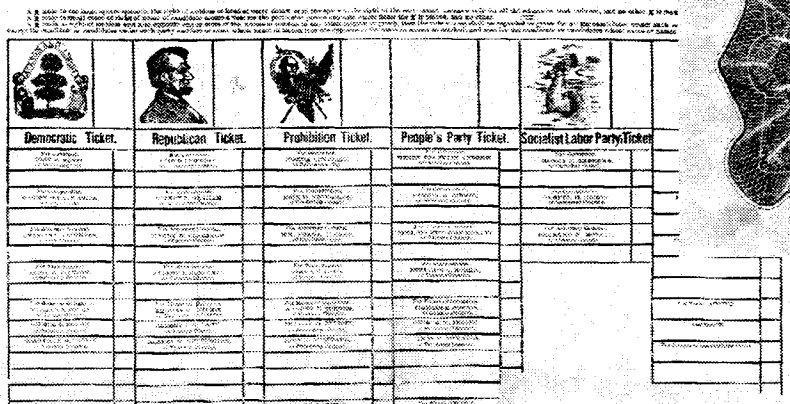
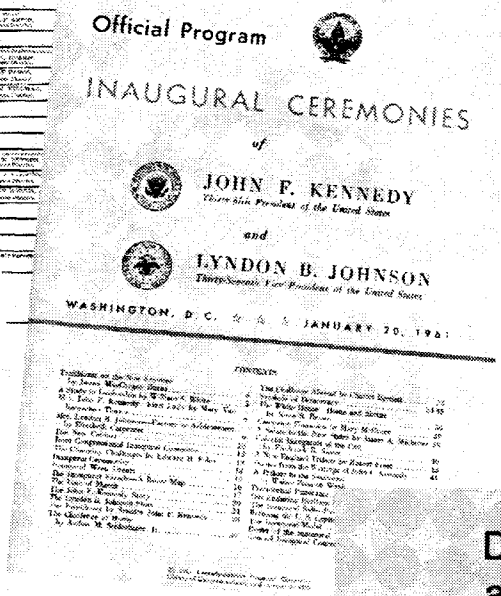


(Figure B)



(Figure K)



OFFICIAL BALLOT
for the
Fifth Election District
of
Wicomico County.

Election held November 5th, 1895.

Eugene M. Walston
President of Board of Supervisors of
Election of Wicomico County.

Ballot Clerk

(Figure L)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1877.

POLITICAL NOTICE.

The Democrats of Wicomico are requested to meet in their several Election Districts, at the usual places of voting, on

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH.,

at 2 o'clock, P. M., to select two (2) Delegates to represent them in the County Convention to be held in the Court House at Salisbury, on

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH.,

at the hour of 11 o'clock, A. M., to nominate candidates for two Delegates to the Legislature, one Sheriff, five County Commissioners and one County Surveyor, to be voted for at the election in November next.

H HUMPHREYS,
PURNELL TOADVINE,
A. J. CRAWFORD,
Democratic Central Committee for Wicomico County. [Aug. 24th. '77.]

Do you want
as President
a man who studied under
JIMMY CARTER?
Distributed By Bill Hughes, Washington GOP Delegate, Vancouver, U.S.A.

(Figure J)

To the Victor Belongs the Polls?

by Iris Powell

A recent addition to the Nabb Web site is a section titled "History Minute" listed in the home page table of contents. This link is a reference page for the WBOC History Minute segments broadcast at the end of the Tuesday noon news and hosted alternately by Nabb Center Director Becky Miller and Nabb Research Board Member Robert Withey of the Wicomico Historical Society.

During a recent segment, Becky shared a page from an archival treasure-the 1865 Quantico District, now Wicomico County, voter registration book housed in the Nabb Research Center's primary archives. On this page, a series of fascinating entries from 1866 recorded that Lucien M. Bradley "Refused to take the Oath," that Washington Ballard was denied registration because of "Disloyalty proven," and that John A. Bounds was "Disqualified by the 4th Se. Article 1st Constitution by his own confession." Of the 20 entries on this page, eight were listed as ineligible for voter registration because they were not able to meet the strict standards of loyalty sanctioned in the "Ironclad Test Oath."

This Ironclad Test Oath was administered liberally during and after the Civil War to confirm Union loyalty. Going further to ensure "Union hegemony" in Maryland for a long time to come, the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1864 "created a new and improved iron clad oath" that would effectively disenfranchise Democrats, Confederate veterans and sympathizers from participating in Reconstruction politics. Because the oath applied to the referendum vote for the new constitution, continued control by the Unionists could be solidified by controlling the vote for the ratification of this constitution and the ironclad oath therein.

The new Constitution provided the following instructions to the judges of election for voter registration. Election officials could register:

> No person who has at any time been in armed hostility to the United States or the lawful authorities thereof, or who has been in any manner in the service of the so-called "Confederate States of America," and no person who has voluntarily left this State and gone within the military lines of the so-called Confederate States or armies with the purpose of adhering to said States or armies, and no person who has given any aid, comfort, countenance or support to those engaged in armed hostility to the United States or in manner adhered to the enemies of the United States, either by contributing to the enemies of the United States, or unlawfully sending within the lines of such enemies, money or goods, or letters, or information, or who has disloyally held communication with the enemies of the United States, or who has advised any person to enter the service of said enemies, or aided any person so to enter, or who has by any open deed or word declared his adhesion to the cause of the enemies of the United States, or his desire for the triumph of said enemies to vote at any election held in this State, or to hold any office of honor, profit or trust under the laws of this State ... and the Judges of election ... may administer to any person offering to vote the following oath or affirmation: I do swear or affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have never given any aid, countenance or support to those in armed hostility to the United States, that I have never expressed a desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States and support the Constitution and laws thereof as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of any State notwithstanding, that I will in all aspects demean myself as a loyal citizen of the United States, and I make this oath or affirmation without any reservation or evasion; and believe it to be binding on me, and any person declining to take such oath shall not be allowed to vote...

The post-war deletion of the background check from the oath was not completed nationally until 1868 and so many citizens pressed to swear or affirm the 1864 oath for the privilege of voting could not do so in 1866. Such a valuable artifact as the Somerset County registration book provides the means of researching the effect that withholding the right to vote or hold office from many noted citizens—unable to swear to or affirm no connection whatsoever with Confederate sympathies—had on Maryland's Eastern Shore Civil War Reconstruction politics. A digital image of this voter registration page, links to the history of the oath of allegiance and the "ironclad oath" Section 4 of the Maryland Constitution of 1864 can be found on the History Minute page. When possible, this page will expand on the short "History Minute" factoids hinted at in the WBOC History Minutes. http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu (History Minute on Home Table of Contents). An Adobe Reader is required to view digital images. A link to the free download of this program is available on the History Minute page. Magnification of images is possible from this reader software.

Exploring George Johnson

by Rebecca West

George Johnson of Somerset County, MD, was a respected man in his community during the mid- to late-17th century. His life in the Colonies consisted of several government official positions, various land patent transactions and a few interesting judicial incidents. Johnson was very successful and left a fairly substantial estate for his family and heirs.

Life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland during Colonial times was a challenging existence to be sure. Johnson immigrated to the colony around 1663 and claimed his headright of 50 acres of land for bringing himself into the colony. From this document, it appears that Johnson did not bring any indentured servants into the colony at this time. However, evidence of indentured servants in his employ does exist in court records: one case involving a woman named Elizabeth Barnet in 1675 and another dealing with a boy named George Bayley, also in 1675. It is also safe to assume that, since Johnson only claimed a headright for himself, he did not bring a wife or any children into the colony either. It is proven that at least by September 1665 he had a wife named Katherine and she had borne George a son named Gersum who died a few months later. Johnson seems to have emigrated from Canterbury, England, as that is where his family had owned much land. Other family members of Johnson include a daughter, Katherine, who was married to John Goding, a son named George, three brothers named John, William and Edward, all of whom lived in New England, a father named Edward Johnson and a grandfather named William Johnson. He also had two sons named Gersum, one born in September 1665 and died in October 1665, and another born in June of 1667 and died in September 1667. The loss of at least two children by one couple within a few months of their birth is an example of how difficult and dangerous it was during Colonial times.

Despite the challenges, Johnson did very well in the political scene. He rose from a first clerk in 1665 and to high sheriff in 1668, when he appointed George Hossfoord to be his undersheriff, or deputy. In a court document from 1675, Johnson is referred to as a "Justice of the Peace of the County of Sommersett." Another indication of Johnson's high political standing is the mention of his name in many marriage records as being the justice of the peace who married the couples. Johnson also received the authority of power of attorney from two well-standing men from different counties, David Williamson of Dorchester County and John Meech from Anne Arundel County. These historical documents portray Johnson as a well-respected man in his community, as well as in other parts of the colony.

Economically, Johnson also overcame harsh conditions. He owned several tracts of land at the time of his death, including Johnston, a 300-acre tract in Westover, which he received in 1663, as well as a neighboring tract of 600 acres of land, received at the same time called, "The Straights." He left all his belongings, "real and personal," to his wife Katherine and then dictated how the estate was to be dispersed after her death. This allotment has great significance in that his wife, although she gains much property into her own right, is not to determine to whom that property should be given after she dies. One can easily read the indication of how women were treated during the Colonial period by the dictation of Johnson regarding his personal estate.

At the time of his death, Johnson also owned many other material items depicting his wealth besides land. His inventory, compiled in 1681, details several expensive items such as a Turkish carpet, several leather and bull rush chairs, as well as a variety of iron, pewter and copper items. The cattle that he owned seem to have been the bulk of his personal estate, being valued at nearly as much as the entire contents of his home. This extensive array of various cows, steers and a couple other horses indicates that Johnson probably earned his money in the agricultural industry, as well as a personal fortune most likely hereditary. Most of the furniture and adornments of Johnson's home were described as "old," therefore indicating that perhaps his belongings were not brand new. However, to own several expensive and so many luxury items illustrates the personal wealth of Johnson.

Johnson was also directly involved in several interesting court cases while he was not on the bench. In 1675, he was sued by one of his indentured servants, Elizabeth Barnet, for keeping her indentured too long. Johnson and Barnet had made a contract indenturing her for three years longer in February 1674, because neither of them knew how long she had been in his service. The court claimed that since Barnet "being an orphant She was not in A Condicon to signe an Indenture" and then ordered Johnson to supply her with "Corne and Clothes" and release her from servitude. He also brought in another servant of his, George Bayley, to have the court determine how old the boy was. The court determined the boy to be 11 years old. This action of Johnson depicts him as a man who respects the law and voluntarily allows his personal life to be directly influenced by what the law dictates.

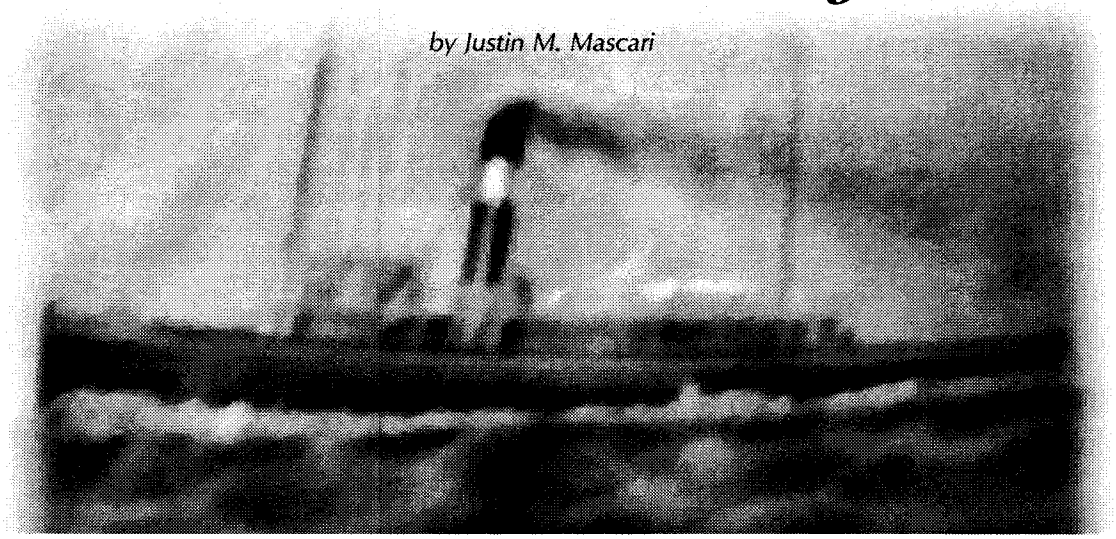
Johnson also seemed to have gotten himself into some interesting situations involving other peoples' livestock. In one such court case, he was sued by Randall Revel for stealing and killing one of his cattle. Johnson denied the accusation, saying that the cow had been ravaging his crops and, having no one claim ownership after asking his neighbors if they owned the cow, he killed it. After an extensive hearing, the court sent the case to the Provincial Court because they did not want to judge such a grave accusation against one of their fellow justices. This incident demonstrates the fellowship that existed between justices and also implied the justices' attempts to be completely fair in judicial decisions. Another court case in which livestock was the issue was a case in which Johnson had bought a colt from John Hillyard "unsight unseene" and wanted to sell it right away to William Stevens for rum. Hillyard claimed that the transaction had not been completed when Johnson physically led the colt away and sued Johnson for trespassing. However, Hillyard owed Johnson money for a horse he had previously bought from him, so the court ruled in favor of Johnson. Hillyard appealed, but he did not show up for the appeal session; therefore, he was charged a hefty amount of tobacco to be paid to the courts, as well as to Johnson, for damages. These court cases demonstrate the importance of livestock during this time period and also the trouble that can arise out of the transactions regarding livestock. Johnson was definitely a victim of his own values in these cases.

To have survived on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the Colonial period is truly an indication of high endurance. To not only survive, but also to thrive in that situation is a really remarkable task. Johnson acquired much wealth, produced two healthy children and helped shape the political Colonial world during his lifetime. When he died in 1681, Johnson seemed to realize the frailty of life and he stated in his will that "all flesh must yield unto Death when it shall please God to call." This realization combined with his political, economical and societal adeptness resulted in a successful, yet grounded and rational, man who was the epitome of what a good Colonial man was expected to be.

Rebecca West is a junior at Salisbury University completing a bachelor's in history. It was her exemplary research and presentation of this paper on the life of the 17th-century Delmarvan George Johnson that earned her the fall 2003 Miles-Stevenson Prize. The Miles-Stevenson Prize is generously sponsored by Marelynn Zipser to commemorate her ancestors.

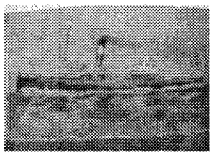
The Spartan Sinking, 1903-2003, One Hundred Years Ago

by Justin M. Mascari



September 17, 2003, marked the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Spartan*, a Philadelphia-built, sea-going tug. The *Spartan* had three boats in tow bound for Philadelphia. In mid-September the *Spartan* met a gale off of the New Jersey coast just outside the Delaware capes. It had reached the buoy of Brown. It was about 3 a.m. and it became necessary to drop anchor because the barges were at risk due to the treacherous conditions of the sea. The 44-year-old Captain Ebe Townsend Chandler ordered the *Spartan's* anchor cast out. But this action did not accomplish what the captain had hoped. The heavy gale force winds and sea caused the tug to drag toward a shoal. The sea washed over her fore and aft and a huge hawser was washed off her foredeck and fouled her wheel. It rapidly became apparent that she was in trouble and would most likely sink. Chandler instructed the crew to abandon ship in order to save their lives.

A small lifeboat was lowered and several of the crew made it into the boat. The captain himself did not make it, as he tried to save the tug. Chandler tried in vain to save the ship, but he was washed overboard with several other men who had also not made it into the lifeboat. For 13 long hours Chandler, clinging to a small piece of board, managed to stay afloat. Some 5 to 10 miles beyond the Delaware capes, Mate Peter Nelson, made it into a small rowing skiff. In the rough seas it capsized but Nelson clung to it before being picked up by the oil steamer, the *Kinsman*. Chandler, on the other hand, still only had the one slim board with no surface to support his body. He was forced to cling on by the grip of his arms. By the end of the 13 hours, he was about to give up as darkness was falling. He had become terribly weak, too weak even to wave his arms. When the pilot ship, the *Philadelphia*, cruised critically near to him he could not even signal it. The lookout on the mast of the *Philadelphia* was unable to see him. As it passed him by, the captain watched with despair because he could not attract its attention. It appeared to be his last hope.



But this was not the end of his life or of the story. Crewmembers that had been picked up by the *Philadelphia* tug, the *Lykens*, (later to be commissioned by the Navy in 1917 as the *U.S.S. Lykens*) another ship searching for survivors insisted that the captain might be out on the water. Miraculously, just before nightfall the crew located Chandler and transferred him to the *Philadelphia*. When he was brought on board he was numb from the cold and the force of the sea beating on him for the 13-hour torture. Even more miraculous was the fact that Nelson from the *Spartan* also was on the *Philadelphia* brought aboard via the *Kinsman*. Chandler thought he was delirious when he recognized the man that pulled him aboard. This intriguing reunion was made even more so in that the seaman who rescued him was a seaman Chandler had pulled from the water the year before. The survivors landed at Lewes, DE. All but two of the 18-man crew survived the sinking of the *Spartan*.

Chandler followed the sea for 80 years, like his father Captain Joshua Chandler of Chincoteague, VA, before him. His experience was on coastwise vessels although in his early career his experiences were on schooners and sailing vessels. He went on to be the mayor of Bethany Beach, DE, and wintered in Plant City, FL, where he maintained orange groves. He was also active in the Eastern Shore strawberry business. He passed away in 1956 in his 98th year and is buried in the Carey graveyard in Frankford, DE, near his former home that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a bed and breakfast (view it at www.captainchandlerhouse.com).

Justin Mascari is the great-great nephew of Captain Ebe T. Chandler. His great-great grandmother, Mary Catherine (Cassie) Chandler Bowden was Captain Chandler's sister from Chincoteague, VA. The author thanks Mrs. Barbara R. Godwin of Millsboro DE, a great granddaughter of Chandler who contributed the photos and information to this article. Mascari is from Lutherville, MD. His e-mail is heymatt72@hotmail.com for those interested in contacting him.

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Barbara R. Godwin

A Chronology of Davis' Choice

by Rebecca Miller

Recently, once again our attention was drawn to the tract Davis' Choice in Somerset County. There has long been confusion about the location of the tract, as there is another tract by that name in the county, and complications of erroneous statements in secondary sources did not help in my understanding of which Davis' Choice was where and what was on it.

While the research project "grew like Topsy" as we gathered pieces of the puzzle from patent records, deeds, rent rolls, debt books, and various tax lists and assessments–records all available at the Nabb Research Center–we could not help but have a sense of wonder at the picture of the long-lost community which was forming. The area around King's Creek was a commercial center long before Princess Anne was ever conceived, and the tale of Davis' Choice is but a segment of the story of King's Creek.

I discovered that the Davis house shown on the map on page 12 is not located on Davis' Choice, but rather on Wilson's Purchase, a resurvey of Smith's Recovery (1679), so we'll save that story for another time. The 18th-century structure, locally known as the Samuel Chase House and more recently as the Glebe House, is definitely located on Davis' Choice. I learned where the "Free School," which later became known as Washington Academy and is still called "the Academy Field" by the owners, was located. I learned that George Parker, son of John and Elizabeth Fisher Parker, lived in the same dwelling as his parents and maternal grandparents, but by 1798 the dwelling was "out of repair." But most importantly, I again realized that the primary sources must always be checked. I even rechecked my own research that was done years ago, simply because a secondary source of Somerset tax lists did not have Thomas Chase in the index at all.

Of particular historical interest is the reference in the 1744 "View and Estimate" of the property belonging to the heirs of Barkley Fisher, which mentions "Parson Chases." This meant land upon which the Reverend Thomas Chase, rector of Somerset Parish and father of Samuel, lived. Readers will recall the article in our Vol. 8 No. 2 Summer 2001 issue which discussed the three locations in old Somerset County which vie for the claim of Samuel Chase's birth place. Thomas Chase was called as rector of Somerset Parish on August 6, 1739, and appears on the tax list in Manokin Hundred for that year, as well as in 1740, 1743 and 1744; the 1741 and 1742 tax lists did not survive. From Chase's position on the tax lists, he was clearly living on the glebe property when Samuel Chase was born in 1741.

What is a "glebe," you say? It is a portion of land owned and maintained by a parish of the Church of England for the use and support of the rector. In modern times, such property is known as the rectory (Episcopal), parsonage (Methodist) or manse (Presbyterian) and is traditionally within walking distance of the church. At the time the glebe was located on the portion of Davis' Choice, known as Turner's Purchase, the King's Mill Chapel on King's Creek was a thriving house of worship.

Thus, doing research one must make the right "choice." All records must be thoroughly researched before reaching a conclusion, but despite the seeming exhaustion of resources, history will always maintain a little of its mystery and intrigue for the dedicated researcher.

Photo taken by Rebecca Miller, Southeast Elevation.

Davis's Choice

Pat. 6:93
19 January 1663/4 warrant issued to James Davis for 600 acres of Davis's Choice
10 May 1666 granted to James Davis lying between two branches of the upper fork of Manokin River lying between George Nasworthy's land and John Bridger's land

B:50
10 March 1669 James Davis, planter and Margaret his wife sold to John Smith and Henry Smith, Jr., sons of Henry of Accomack County, Virginia, 600 acres between two branches of the upper fork of Manokin River lying between George Nasworthy's land and John Bridger's land

MA1:536
11 November 1681 Henry Smith sold to George Phoebus 330 acres now called George's Delight

MA1:602
30 October 1682 Henry Smith sold to Jacob Warring, turner, 130 acres now called Turners Purchase between two branches of the upper fork of Manokin River

MA1:224
10 January 1685 Jacob Warring sold to Thomas Wilson, Jr. 130 acres

L2:491
28 January 1698 George Phoebus, ship-wright, and Ann his wife sold to John Fisher 330 acres sold to John and Henry Smith by James Davis which Henry Smith, Jr. sold on 1 November 1681 to George Phoebus now called George's Delight running down the creek side to tann house point

Rent Roll:
c1707 John Fisher 330 acres; Ephraim Wilson and Peter Dent 120 acres; 150 a belongs to C: Henry Smith who died att the South no rent paid since 1685

EB5:174
1709 John Fisher devised 300 acres of land to wife Jane and son Barkley

AZ:58
15 April 1732 Ephraim Wilson and Frances his wife sold to James Lindow and Margaret his wife for 5 shillings half of Turners Purchase being part of Davis Choice

Debt Book
1734 Bartholomew Fisher 330 acres of Davises Choice.

MD 23:107
27 March 1738 inventory of estate of Bartlett Fisher filed by administratrix Sarah Train, wife of James Train, Jr.

X:14
28 May 1742 Margaret Lindow, widow of James Lindow sold to the Vestry of Somerset Parish 130 acres where Margaret Lindow now lives, Turners Choice being part of Davis's Choice

Rent Roll
1744 James Train was holding the 330 acres of Davis's Choice; it also shows a 1746 transfer from James Train to Barth: Fisher's heirs. 100 acres held by David Wilson by name of Wilson's Lot (800 ac); 25 acres held by Samuel Wilson as Kings Purchase; 100 acres held by Samuel Wilson as Husbands Loss

X:124
10 September 1744 Thomas Bannister and James Furnace viewed the houses and improvements on the land belonging to the orphans of Barkley Fisher now under the guardianship of John Elzey, Jr. and found one old dwelling house 35 x20 wide with two rooms on a floor and planked but past repairing, one log kitchen 15 feet long, one framed house 20 x 10 feet, one old shop, one old corn house, one old log dwelling house at the upper part of the plantation, 17 old apple trees, 108 younger apple trees, 33 cherry trees and the "ground to be cleared by the guardian we do assign to be that part lying between the dwelling house and Parson Chases on the point in the fork of the Creek"

H:224
21 November 1746 Woney McClemmy and James Furniss viewed the plantation of Eliza Fisher and Sarah Fisher in possession of Underwood Rencher and "do find on the said plantation one thousand three hundred and seventy seven pannels of fence twenty one peach trees forty cherry trees two hundred and nineteen apple trees four old pair trees one old dwelling house about thirty six feet long and eighteen feet wide one milk house and meat house twenty feet long and ten feet wide covered with good oak boards one old loged kitchen. . ."

X:286
6 December 1747 David Wilson and Abigail his wife, son of Ephraim Wilson, dec'd, sold to Vestrymen of Somerset Parish all interest in 130 acres Turners Choice taken out of Davis Choice that Rev. Thomas Wilson grandfather of David purchased from Jacob Warring and where Margaret Lindow lately lived, to be used as a glebe for the Church of England

Debt Book
1748 Davis Choice 330 acres John Fisher charge to Barth. Fisher

A:240
26 March 1752 Randall Mitchell and wife Sarah sold to Hamilton Bell all that moiety or 146 acres of the tract originally called Davis' Choice now called George's Delight at the head of a creek which issueth out of Manokin river beginning at a post in John Parker's orchard

B:119
17 February 1756 John Parker, wife Elizabeth, sold to Rev. Hamilton Bell 4 acres on the south side of Manokin near the Free School Bridge which is a bounder of Davice Choice

Debt Book
1759 Hamilton Bell 120 acres Davis Choice part of Glebe land; 4 acres land from Jno Parker not patented (330 acre George's Delight not listed)

Debt Book
1761 John Parker 184 acres of Davis's Choice

tax list
1783 John Parker 179 acres Davis's Choice

I:293
25 November 1791 John Parker and Elizabeth his wife sold to George Parker and John Parker 176 acres of Parkers Fortune and Davis Choice

tax list
1798 George Parker of John 83 acres of Georges Delight in Manokin Hundred with a dwelling house of wood 36 x 18, one story with 8 windows, out of repair, a kitchen 20 x 16, out of repair, a smoke-house 11 x 11, stables 16 x 8, and a milke house 8 x 8, all out of repair

tax list
1798 John Parker 83 acres of Georges Delight in Manokin Hundred with a dwelling house of wood 22 x 21 feet, one story six windows not finished, a kitchen 16 x 16, a smokehouse 8 x 8, a corn house 16 x 8.

M:26
26 December 1799 Vestry of Somerset Parish (John Stewart, Levin Jones, Sr., Whittington King, Francis T. Cheney, John Done, William Done) sold Davis Choice to John Bird

M:68
12 March 1800 John Parker and George Parker sold to John Bird Davis Choice on north and east side to the north side to the easternmost part of tract

M:71
12 March 1800 John Parker sold to George Parker Davis Choice with Parkers Fortune at creek side northwest of said George Parker's house to the county road

M:73
12 March 1800 George Parker sold to John Parker Davis Choice with Parkers Fortune at creek side northwest of said George Parker's house to the county road

M:74
12 March 1800 John Byrd sold to John Parker and George Parker Davis Choice

M:176
28 June 1800 John Bird, wife Margaret, sold to John Parker 46 acres of Davis Choice on the east side of said Parker's orchard north to the middle of the county road

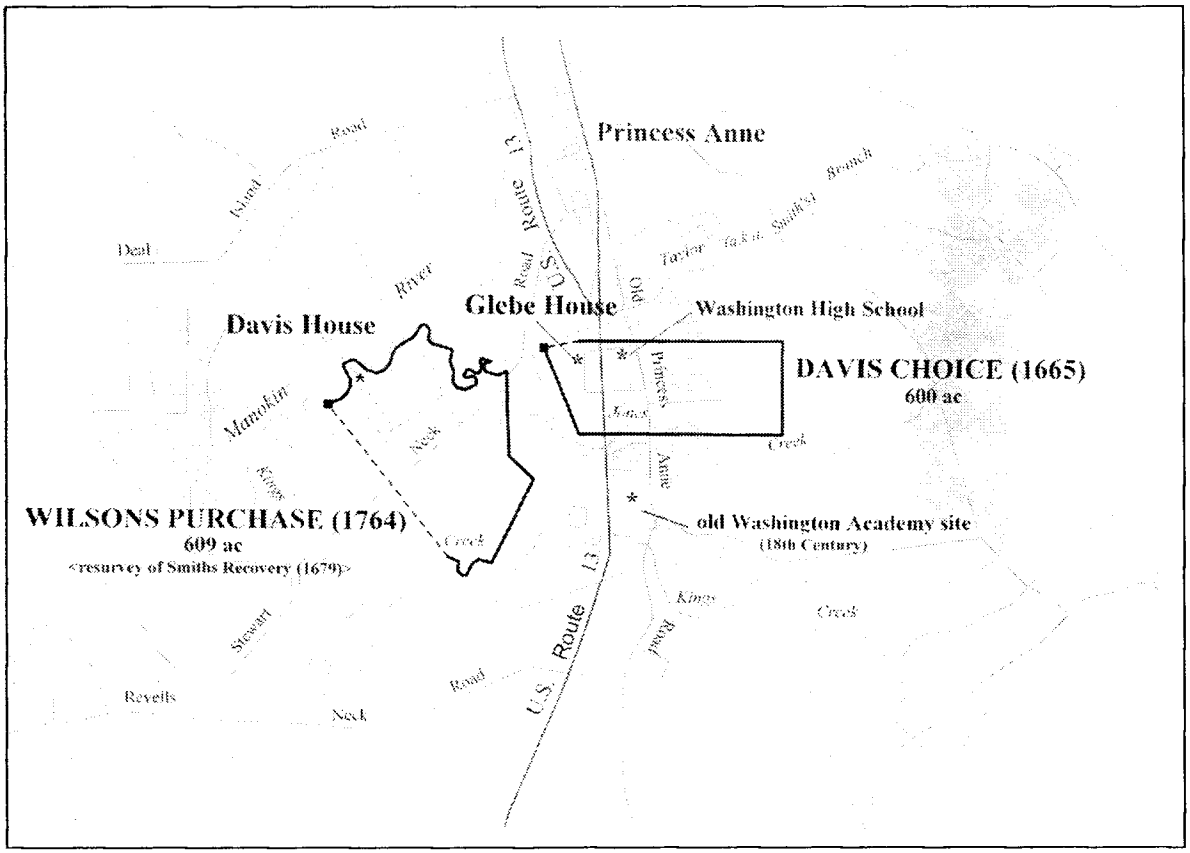
O:127
25 August 1802 John Byrd sold to Levin Irving Davis' Choice on the east side of the main county road that leads from Princess Anne to Back Creek being the lands the said Byrd purchased of the Vestry of Somerset Parish

O:130
25 August 1802 Levin Irving sold to Margaret Byrd wife of John Byrd and to Mary Smith as tenants in common Davis' Choice on the east side of the county road which leads from Princess Anne to Back Creek, it being the lands which the Vestry of Somerset Parish conveyed to John Byrd and he the said John Byrd conveyed by deed the same with these presents to the aforesaid Levin Irving

P:392
14 September 1804 John Byrd and Margaret his wife and Mary Smith sold to Zadock Long 115 2 acres of Laws Purchase, Davis's Choice which has been held and owned as the Glebe land of Somerset Parish as by reference to a deed from the Vestry of Somerset Parish to John Byrd, 13 2 acres of Walton's Improvement and 4 acres bought from Thomas Maddux

tax list
1817 George Parker part Davis's Choice 100 acres; John Parker part Davis Choice 45 acres, part George's Delight 42 acres

GH5:494
7 February 1831 Catharine Parker, Lorenzo D. Parker and Clement J.B. Parker sold to Littleton Redden all that part of two tracts of which John Parker late deceased died seized and by his last will and testament devised to the said Catherine Parker, Lorenzo D. Parker, Clement J.B. Parker and James Henry Parker called Davis' Choice, Parkers Fortune, George's Delight and Meadow Ground lying on the main road leading from Princess Anne to Washington Academy containing 143 1/4 acres



Map graphic created by T. Aaron Horner

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 4

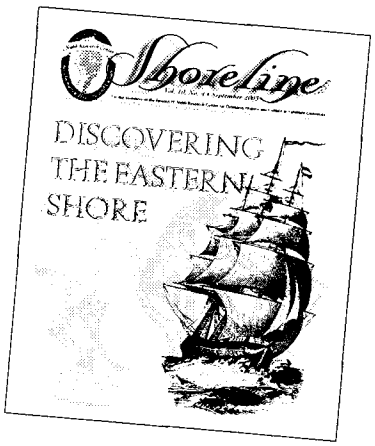
"If This Place Could Talk:
Researching the History of an Old House"
7 p.m., Holloway Hall Great Hall
Salisbury University

Just as our families have rich histories, our old houses and the land on which they are located have a story to tell as well. Knowing where and how to look, you may find these important clues to the past. Maryland Humanities Council Speaker Michael Dixon will demonstrate how to uncover the mysterious history that exists with us in our homes, our fields and our forests. He will reveal the best ways to get organized in order to begin the research process, how to find available records and primary documents and lastly, how to interpret those findings. He will provide suggestions on how to create a concrete history out of what may just appear to be "an old house." For additional information call 410-543-6312.

Membership Information

The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture is your passport to Delmarva's past. Membership includes unlimited Nabb Research Center visits. You will also receive the *Shoreline* newsletter, Nabb Research Center bookmark and membership card. Plus, your membership entitles you to receive valuable discounts on Nabb Research Center publications, educational courses and advance sign-up for events. Memberships run on the calendar year, and the following levels of support are available:

21st Century $1,000+
First Settlers $500+
Old Somerset $250+
Chesapeake $100+
Tidewater $55+
Delmarva Heritage $30+



Saturday, May 22

Settlers of the Eastern Shore Evenlight at Clifton, Somerset County
4:30-7:30 p.m.
Tickets $60 per person;
call 410-543-6312 to reserve

Save the Date!

Following a most successful and inspired evening last year, the second major fundraising event for the Nabb Research Center will revisit Clifton (circa 1800), Revell's Neck, Somerset County, a singularly outstanding example of Eastern Shore architecture hosted by owners, Bill and Kathy Niskanen. The elegant evening will be one of good company, fabulous food, potent potables (open bar and Bert Thornton's mint juleps) and a silent auction. Docents will be available for house and ground tours. This first announcement of the event provides an early opportunity for members to secure reservations for an evening of fun and history that will benefit the Nabb Research Center.

Clifton Sponsorship Opportunities:

King's Court: $1,000 includes four tickets, a prominent listing on the invitation and continued recognition in Nabb Research Center publications as a first-tier sponsor.

Lord's Manor: $500 includes two tickets and continued recognition in Nabb Research Center publications as a sponsor.

Colonel's Militia: $250 includes one ticket and continued recognition in Nabb Research Center publications as a sponsor.

Planter's Hall: $100 includes recognition in Nabb Research Center publications as a sponsor.

The Nabb Reasearch Center gratefully acknowledges major support for our May Clifton Benefit from the following:

- E. Niel & Helen S. Carey
- Doyle's Restaurant
  Doyles Catering
  Selbyville, Delaware
- Riverside Pharmacy
  Milford Street Pharmacy
  Salisbury, Maryland

Additional Support provided by:

- Flowers Unlimited
- Gardner Sign Inc.
- The Thomas Hershey Family Foundation
- Joseph Moore
- Sandra Quillin
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Whitney
- Gordon Wood
- The Tile Shop

Maryland Migration from

by Kristen Post Walton, Ph.D.

The execution of the Jesuit Priest Ralph Corbington.

Lord Baltimore was a Catholic baron of Ireland who was originally from Yorkshire and had received his baronetcy in 1625 after serving on the King's Privy Council. In 1632, King Charles I granted the Second Lord Baltimore a charter for the colony of Maryland, conferring upon him palatine powers, meaning semi-regal administrative powers (Maine and New Hampshire were also chartered with palatine powers in the 1630s).* The Calvert family had long been friends with the Stuart Kings, and Lord Baltimore happily called his colony Maryland in honor of Henrietta Maria, the Catholic queen of England. The long-standing friendship of the Calverts with the king helped to ensure their successful attainment of the charter, but they also had timing on their side.

After deciding that his Avalon colony in the north was faced with too bad a climate, the first Lord Baltimore applied for his new charter at a time when Charles found himself in need of friends. In 1629, the Duke of Buckingham, one of the best friends of the king and his primary advisor, was murdered. Following the murder, the Parliament demanded certain rights of the king, including limitations on taxation and on Arminianism, a branch of the Anglican religion that appeared Catholic in many of its external attributes and in its recognition of free will over election. The king disagreed with Parliament and decided to dissolve it, beginning his 11-year personal reign. From 1629 to 1640, Charles ruled without a parliament and imposed his own economic and religious ideas upon his kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. His extra-parliamentary taxation included the imposition of something called "Ship Money" in England; a tax that had been collected in times of war for hundreds of years from counties with shorelines for their defense. During the 1630s, though, Charles decided to collect the tax without a declaration of war and, for the first time, from shires that did not border the water. At the same time, Archbishop Laud of Canterbury worked with the king to create a church that appeared more Catholic, by restoring altars within the churches and creating a new prayer book. In 1637, Charles was determined to force the new prayer book upon the Scots, which ultimately led to

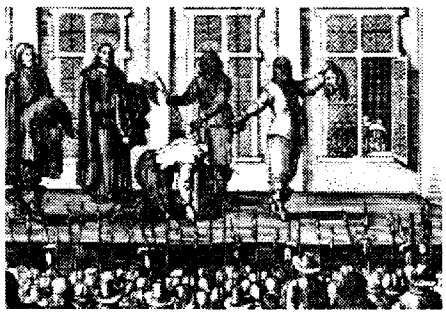
England in the 17th Century

their rebellion against him and their forcing him in 1640 once again to call Parliament. The economic situation and the religious problems faced by Charles' English and Scottish subjects during the personal rule would have encouraged many of them to migrate to Lord Baltimore's more religiously tolerant and economically promising colony.

Oliver Cromwell refuses the crown.

With the Long Parliament in session (it lasted officially from 1640-1660), the king cornered into inactivity by the Scots and Catholics rebelling against the Protestant lords in Ireland, tensions began to rise. By 1642, war had broken out between the Roundheads (or Parliamentarians) and the Cavaliers (or Royalists) for control of the kingdom. The Battle of Marston Moor in July 1644 began to turn the tide in favor of the Roundheads as they took control of the primarily royalist north. The next summer, at the Battle of Naseby, the New Model Army of Oliver Cromwell defeated the Royalist forces and ensured the success of the Parliamentarians. By January 1649, the king faced a court of the remainder of the parliament (called "the Rump") and was condemned to die. The victors executed him for treason at Whitehall Palace on January 30. Throughout the period of war, people might have wanted to migrate to Maryland for various reasons. Religion was a primary reason, as the Roundheads were strongly against Catholics; in addition, most of the English people were against the followers of the man whom they dubbed "the anti-Christ": The Pope. Although Charles I was never a Catholic, his ideas on religion were closer to those of the Church of Rome, and the Parliamentarians saw him as being too sympathetic to the Catholics. Therefore, as Charles lost support, power and eventually his life, many of the English Catholics decided to migrate to the colony of Maryland, that was more tolerant of religion. The colony, though, was not an ideal place to be Catholic as on December 25, 1645, Parliament, by its Committee for Foreign Plantations, drew up an ordinance "for the settling of the Plantation of Maryland under the Command of Protestants." However, it was still better than England under the control of the Parliament, which had tortured and executed Jesuits, giving even more reason for Catholics to leave the land. In addition, the war caused economic distress. The Thirty Years War on the continent remained in full swing until 1648, cutting off much of the international trade from England, and the Civil War itself was harmful to an economy still based largely on agriculture. From 1640-61, there were 10 bad harvests, eight good harvests and four average harvests, a situation that was worse than average, resulting in the creation of yet more reasons for emigration.

When Oliver Cromwell took control of the government as Lord Protector following Charles' execution in 1649, the rules against Catholics within England tightened. In addition, Cromwell and his followers were Puritans and also turned against the members of the Anglican Church. During this time droves of persons who were not Catholic left England and came to Virginia and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In addition, on September 3, 1651, Cromwell's armies defeated Charles I's son who was leading the Scottish army. The Scots had been upset that the English had executed their king, a king of a separate kingdom of Scotland, without the permission of the Scots. As a result, they quickly crowned the Prince of Wales, Charles II. When the Scots were defeated at the Battle of Worcester, it meant that their entire kingdom was compromised and turned into part of a new Cromwellian Republic. The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh was ended and Charles II was exiled to France. Many Scots were upset about the Cromwellian, English usurpation of power within their kingdom and as a result, the possibility of emigrating to a colony in which the governor had palatinate powers was probably very appealing to them. The emigration of Scots during this period was increased further during the later century as the Scottish economy faltered and Scots in Maryland established their own Presbyterian church.


Charles I is executed.

** Ironically, the first Lord Baltimore had not supported the rights of the Elector Palatine, the brother-in-law of Charles, who lost his power with the start of the 30 years war.*

Kristen Post Walton, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in history at Salisbury University. Her area of specialization is British history.
Photos courtesy of Dr. Walton.

Poetic Justice: Some Thoughts on Slavery And Freedom in Delaware

by Richard B. Carter

History is filled with moments of poetic justice. One such moment will be marked by Delawareans on May 17, 2004, when the First State along with the rest of America commemorates the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, KS*, case. That unanimous ruling ended the sad era of "separate but equal" in American public education that had been ordained by an earlier court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in the 1890s. In so doing, it served as an important impetus to the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and thereafter.

Two 1952 Delaware cases, *Bulah v. Gebhart* and *Belton v. Gebhart*, were among six school desegregation cases from across the country that were combined by the court under the name *Brown v. Board of Education*. Of the six cases, only in the Delaware cases had the state courts struck down segregation of public schools, noting that Delaware's schools, while separate, certainly were not equal. Thus in its Brown decision the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Delaware courts.

The judge who wrote the decisions in the Delaware cases, Collins Jacques Seitz of Wilmington, was then the newly-appointed chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery. In later years he became a distinguished judge on the federal Third Circuit Court of Appeals and is now considered among the luminaries of the Delaware bench and bar. So is the man who served as one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs in the two cases, Louis L. Redding, also of Wilmington, the first black member of the Delaware bar and a distinguished leader in the civil rights struggle in the state.

Delaware had been one of the earliest slave states. In that area, as in so many aspects of its history, the state was something of an anomaly. For one thing, of the four slave states that remained in the Union, Delaware was the only one that was not a border state. For another, slavery was never as dominant a factor in Delaware's economy as in most slave states. Even at its height in the years before the Revolution, only some 20 percent of Delawareans were slaves. As William H. Williams notes in his 1996 book *Slavery and Freedom in Delaware, 1639-1865*, that percentage was considerably higher than in any northern colony, but less than that of any colony in the South. Moreover, for a variety of reasons involving, among other factors, its religion (heavily influenced by Quakers and Methodists) and its agricultural practices, Delaware had the strongest manumission movement of any major slave state and passed a statute banning the export of slaves for sale in 1787. This trend continued until, by the time of the Civil War, the great majority of African-Americans in Delaware were legally free, although, as we shall see, the term "free" was relative.

Slavery was introduced to what were then known as "the Three Lower Counties Upon Delaware" in the 1650s by Dutch traders who, through their Dutch West India Company, did much to establish the infamous trade throughout the Americas. The institution reached its height in the years before the American Revolution. By the time of the first federal census in 1790, Delaware's population included 8,887 slaves and 3,899 free blacks. Twenty years later there were 4,177 slaves and 13,136 free blacks. The number of slaves continued to decline until, by 1860, there were only 1,798 slaves in the state compared with 19,829 free blacks.

1860 U.S. Census statistics broke these numbers down as follows:

	Free Colored	Slave
Kent	7,271	203
New Castle	8,188	254
Sussex	4,370	1,341
Total	19,829	1,798

There were a total of 587 slave owners in Delaware in 1860, 66 of whom were Kent Countians, 86 were New Castle Countians and 435 were Sussex Countians. Clearly, slavery was much more firmly established in Sussex, the southernmost county of the three, than in Kent and New Castle. Yet, some residents of the northern parts of the state and adjoining areas such as Cecil County, MD, were every bit as outspoken in their support for the institution as anyone in southern Delaware. At the same time, slavery in Delaware was on a much smaller scale than in the Deep South. Harold B. Hancock notes in his book, *Delaware During the Civil War*, that of the 587 slave owners in 1860, only eight owned more than 15 slaves and the state's largest slave owner, Benjamin Burton, who lived near Millsboro in the Indian River Hundred, owned 28 slaves.

That being said, it must be noted that for all its liberal manumission policy and declining slave trade, Delaware had the nation's harshest laws limiting the freedoms of so-called free blacks. At the same time the state was one of the more important links in the Underground Railroad and such courageous Delawareans as Thomas Garrett of New Castle County and John Hunn of Kent County risked life and liberty to help runaway slaves escape through the state to freedom in the north. Williams notes that "only Maryland approached Delaware in the coercive nature of its policy toward free black laborers during the antebellum era." He goes on to say that the white fears of Delaware's free black population in the decades immediately prior to the war, particularly in the wake of the 1831 Nat Turner slave uprising in Virginia, led to the enactment of "harsh black codes that so restricted the liberties of free African-Americans that Delaware became the least hospitable place in the Union for freedmen prior to the Civil War."

That fact clearly figured into Delaware's reaction to a proposal by Abraham Lincoln to use the state as a pilot project for a plan of "compensated emancipation," which he had devised early in the Civil War to end slavery and, it was hoped, the bloodshed on the battlefield.

PERENNIAL POLITICS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

In November 1861, Postmaster General Montgomery Blair sent a telegram to Delaware Congressman George Fisher asking him to come to Washington on urgent business. Upon his arrival, he met for considerable time with President Lincoln, who explained his plan for the government to buy all Delaware's slaves at a price of $300 each. Fisher asked for $500 each. It was his idea that if any of the slaves could be purchased from their owners for less money, the extra funds could be used for public improvements and education. This might make the plan more attractive to Delawareans, Fisher reasoned.

Lincoln agreed to Fisher's terms but said that he wanted to speak to a Delaware slave owner. Fisher contacted Benjamin Burton, the state's largest slave owner, who was a Republican and thus a member of Fisher's and Lincoln's own party, something of a rarity among Delaware slave owners. Burton went to Washington and met with the president, telling him that he believed Delaware slave owners would be quite willing to sell their slaves for a fair price. He asked the president if he believed that Congress would support the plan, to which Lincoln responded, "Mr. Burton, you tend to your end of the swingle tree and I'll tend to mine." Lincoln said that he was sure if Delaware would agree to the plan all the border states would follow suit.

Fisher went back to Dover and with the aid of Republican leaders drew up state legislation to implement the plan. While there was a good chance of passage in the state Senate, it was learned that there was not enough support to pass the bill in the House, so the measure was never introduced. The state's pro-slavery demagogues, of whom there were many, had a fine time berating the president for his presumption in proposing such a radical plan and the matter became effectively dead. One wonders what might have been.

In the end, slavery lasted longer in a legal sense in Delaware and in Kentucky, one of the other three slave states that remained in the Union, than it did in the Confederate states. The Emancipation Proclamation applied only to those states that had seceded from the Union. Of the four slave states that remained in the Union, the legislatures of Maryland and Missouri took action to end slavery during the war. Delaware and Kentucky did not and slavery survived in those states until the adoption of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in December 1865, some seven months after the end of the war.

Harold Hancock wrote that in August 1865, a Sussex County black was sold into servitude for seven years from the steps of the Sussex County Courthouse in Georgetown for $64 as part of his sentence by a state court and that there were several similar cases in Kent County in October, although newspaper editorialists noted at the time that it was a very questionable investment, given the impending enactment of the 13th Amendment. The Delaware General Assembly refused to ratify the amendment, which received enough state ratifications elsewhere to become law. Finally, some 35 years later, Delaware legislators ratified the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments as a symbolic gesture decades after their enactment. Throughout 1865 and in the years that followed, there were numerous incidents of racial violence in the state.

Emotions run deep. A member of Judge Seitz's family recently recalled that when he issued his rulings in the two Delaware desegregation cases in 1952, 87 years after the end of slavery in the state, the family home had to have police protection because of threats of violence against him. Since 1954, great progress has been made in Delaware and across America, though much remains to be done. It is pleasing to think that Seitz, Redding and many other Delawareans of all races have contributed to these gains. Perhaps Winston Churchill's immortal valediction on the end of the Battle of Egypt in 1942 might best sum up where we are as we approach the anniversary of the Brown decision: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Richard B. Carter of Millsboro, DE, is a member of the Nabb Center Board and frequently writes on local history. He is the author of *The History of Sussex County* (1976) and *Clearing New Ground: The Life of John G. Townsend Jr.* (2nd edition 2002).

William Daniel

by T. Aaron Horner

Long before Spiro T. Agnew became the first Marylander to occupy the White House as Richard Nixon's vice president, there was another Marylander who ran unsuccessfully for that post. William Daniel was born on Devil's (now Deal) Island in Somerset County on January 24, 1826. He was the son of Traverse and Mary (Wallace) Daniel.

Religion ran deep in William's blood; his grandfather was the Rev. David Wallace, one of the first Methodist ministers in the area, and Joshua Thomas, the "Parsons of the Island," was a contemporary and a close friend to his father, Traverse. In 1848, Daniel graduated from Dickinson College and in 1851 he was admitted to the Maryland Bar.

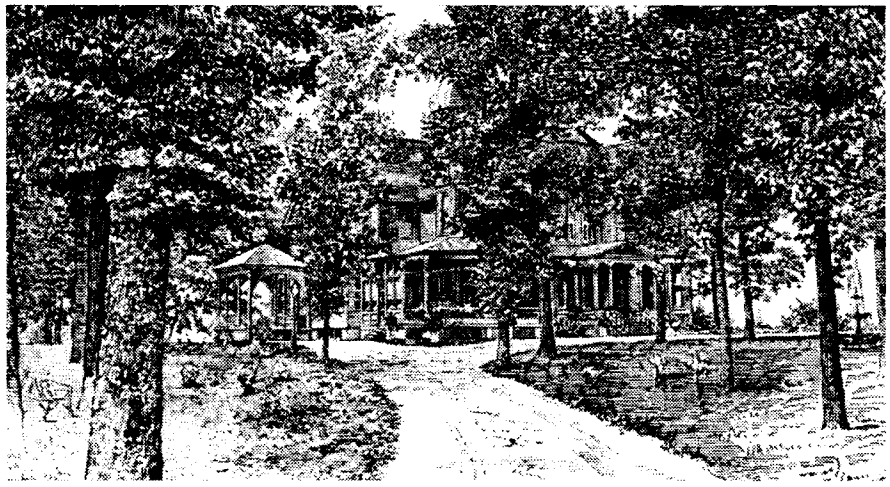
Soon Daniel entered into politics. He served as Somerset's State Delegate in the Maryland Legislature in 1854 and 1856 and in the State Senate in 1858. Though elected in 1860, Daniel immediately resigned and moved to Baltimore. Due to his religious upbringing, Daniel worked hard toward prohibition and emancipation as well as helping the poor, in particular, children. As a state delegate, he introduced bills toward local choice temperance. In 1864, he served on the state constitutional convention for emancipation of the slaves.

After slavery had been abolished, Daniel continued his work in the prohibition movement. When the Maryland Temperance Alliance was organized in 1872, they elected Daniel as its first president. During the 1884 presidential election, the alliance joined the National Prohibition Party. At the national convention held in Pittsburgh, the party nominated Governor John P. St. John of Kansas as its presidential candidate with Daniel as his running mate. Though the ticket garnered a little over 150,000 votes, less than 1.5 percent of the national vote, it still may have had a significant impact on the election. Potential Republican votes given to the Prohibition Party may have contributed to the Democratic Party's narrow victory with Grover Cleveland. In 1896, Daniel returned to Dickinson College as a trustee, a post he had previously held from 1864 to 1867. He continued at that post until his death the following year at the age of 74.

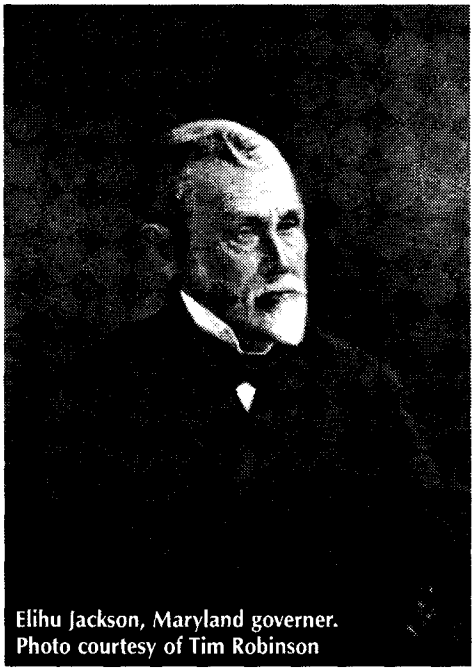
To see an image of the official campaign ribbon please refer to the Kansas State Historical Society site at http://www.kshs.org/exhibits/vice/vice4.htm.

Elihu Jackson: Governor of Maryland

by Tim Robinson



"The Oaks" Jackson's home.
Photo courtesy of Tim Robinson



Elihu Jackson, Maryland governer.
Photo courtesy of Tim Robinson

Today there may seem an inclination to regard the political power of Maryland's Eastern Shore as insignificant. In modern gubernatorial campaigns, much attention is paid to the Baltimore area and Prince George's County with its millions of voters that can easily influence the outcome of any modern election. This was not always the case, in fact prior to 1920, residents of the Eastern Shore occupied the governorship quite often, as close to half of our governors claimed the Eastern Shore as their home. One of these Eastern Shore governors, Elihu E. Jackson, emerged from right here in Wicomico County. Jackson would become our county's sole son to move to Annapolis as our state's chief executive.

Elihu Emory Jackson was born November 3, 1837, not too far from Delmar. The future governor did not spend a long time pursuing a formal education because his father needed help on the family farm. Life on the farm did not last long for Jackson. In the late 1850s he opened the first store in the town of Delmar, a burgeoning railroad town and he also became Delmar's first postmaster. After four years, he relocated his general store to Salisbury and expanded into the lumber business. Elihu's good business sense, along with his father's and brothers' partnerships helped found the E.E. Jackson Lumber Company along the east bank of the Wicomico River in the area of what would become Mill Street. The E.E. Jackson Lumber Company grew into one of the most prosperous in the country.

Twenty years in the business world helped Jackson develop a reputation as an important individual, which greatly facilitated his rise to political prominence. In 1881 the residents of Wicomico County elected Jackson to the House of Delegates and in 1883 they elected him to the State Senate. 1886 saw Jackson elected as president of the State Senate.

In 1887, each section of the state supported its own candidate to the Democratic Convention for Governor with the Eastern Shore delegation favoring Jackson. All of these different candidates and a lack of a consensus resulted in a deadlock until the Baltimore City delegation threw its support behind Jackson, which delivered him the gubernatorial nomination.

Jackson defeated his Republican opponent and settled in as Maryland's governor in 1888. His term could be described as being "anti-big business" as he oversaw the passage of legislation that forbade the consolidation of railroads and other large corporations in an effort to prevent monopolies. Under Jackson's direction the legislature did away with tax-exempt statuses for big businesses unless they were religious or charitable in nature.

Jackson served only one term as governor, but he did not leave politics after the end of that term in 1892. In that year he attempted to garner the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, a post that Jackson highly coveted, but it proved unsuccessful. Having failed in his bid to become a U.S. senator, Jackson accepted the post of president of the Salisbury National Bank. His hiatus from politics ceased in 1895 with his return to the state Senate for one more four-year term. In 1907, Jackson was nominated again for the State Senate but declined, citing his poor health. By the end of that year, on December 27, 1907, Elihu Jackson died while in Baltimore. He was buried in Parsons Cemetery in Salisbury. Today Jackson's grave lies almost in the middle of the cemetery with one of the tallest tombstones which proudly proclaims his service as Maryland's governor.

When will Wicomico send its next governor to Annapolis? Only time will tell. Since 1920, only two candidates from the Eastern Shore have successfully won the gubernatorial election, J. Millard Tawes and Harry Hughes. Our interval from representation in the governor's mansion will undoubtedly end sooner or later when a native son becomes elected to be our state's chief executive again.

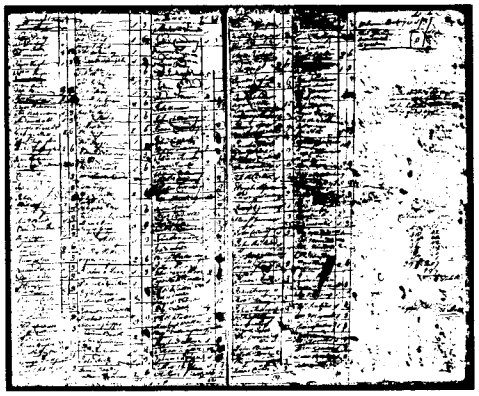
Tim Robinson is currently a candidate for a master's in history at Salisbury University. He is a deputy for the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office and lives in Eden, MD, with his wife, Angie, and their two children, Josh and Emily–the Nabb's youngest patrons.

Our Governors From the Eastern Shore

1. William Paca (No Party) 1782-1785
   Queen Anne's County
2. John Henry (Federalist) 1797-1798
   Dorchester County
3. Robert Wright (Democrat) 1806-1809
   Queen Anne's County
4. Edward Lloyd (Democrat) 1809-1811
   Talbot County
5. Levin Winder (Federalist) 1816-1819
   Somerset County
6. Charles Goldsborough (Federalist) 1819
   Dorchester County
7. Samuel Stevens Jr. (Democrat) 1822-1826
   Talbot County
8. Daniel Martin (Anti-Jackson) 1829-1830
   Talbot County
9. Thomas King Carroll (Democrat) 1830-1831
   Somerset County
10. Thomas W. Veazy (Whig) 1836-1839
    Cecil County
11. William Grason (Democrat) 1839-1842
    Queen Anne's County
12. Phillip Francis Thomas (Democrat) 1848-1851
    Talbot County
13. Thomas Holliday Hicks (Native-American) 1858-1862
    Dorchester County
14. James Black Groome (Democrat) 1874-1876
    Cecil County
15. Henry Lloyd (Democrat) 1885-1888
    Dorchester County
16. Elihu E. Jackson (Democrat) 1888-1892
    Wicomico County
17. John Walker Smith (Democrat) 1900-1904
    Worcester County
18. Austin L. Crothers (Democrat) 1908-1912
    Cecil County
19. Phillips Lee Goldsborough (Republican) 1912-1916
    Dorchester County
20. Emerson C. Harrington (Democrat) 1916-1920
    Dorchester County
21. J. Millard Tawes (Democrat) 1959-1967
    Somerset County
22. Harry Hughes (Democrat) 1978-1986)
    Caroline County

Those Devil Tax Lists

by Lora Koehler



For the past year, my life at the Nabb Research Center has consisted of entering Somerset County tax lists into the new American Origins database. So far, only Monie and Wicomico hundreds, subdivisions within Somerset County, have been entered starting from the early 1720s through 1759. One may think this task to be fairly easy; after all, all I am doing is copying the data into the database. However, these tax lists are neither simple nor easy to understand, and they have consumed my days spent at work.

There are several obstacles to overcome when reading the tax lists. A select few have already been transcribed, making life a little easier. However many others have not, leaving the transcription to me. The handwriting varies from list to list, never remaining consistent and often difficult to read. One must interpret letters and names by examining the whole list in order to get a grasp for the individual writing. The lists are done by different enumerators thus names are often spelled differently and are sometimes unrecognizable. The surname, Sirman, for example, can be spelled Serman, Sherman, Shirman, Shurman, Sirmon, Surmon and Surman. First names can also vary or be abbreviated making it difficult, for example, to distinguish between a Joshua and a Joseph. Slave names as well are challenging and I have run into many that I believe to be made up. Furthermore, there is the junior/senior dilemma. Some years, individuals may have Jr. or Sr. attached to them. Other years they may not, forcing one to further investigate previous years in order to identify which individual is which. Additionally, if senior dies, junior then takes the Sr. ending. Unless a will is left or it is clear that the original Sr. has died, it is very easy to confuse the two. Confused yet?

The list goes on ... the tax list itself is sometimes damaged. Coffee stains, huge ink blots or fuzzy lines only add to one's frustration. District lines are not concrete and sometimes move, leading individuals on the border of a hundred to disappear or just appear for one or select random years. Moreover, free females are not listed unless widowed or mulatto and white males are not listed until they come of age at 16.

It may appear that I hate these devil tax lists, but I also secretly, really love them. Difficult they are, but they are also so informative. I have gained a new appreciation and affection for these dear lists. I have learned a tremendous amount about the families of the area. With the confusion, I have often had to outline family genealogies to clear up which individual is which. The tax lists provide the means to follow a family through several generations, tracking monetary value increases or decreases, numbers of slaves, deaths, sibling relations, and the presence of children and the paths they eventually take. I have become better acquainted with the Somerset County wills, the Dryden collection and family genealogies in order to help further my quest toward completion (an added bonus). The tax lists serve as an excellent resource in tracking family genealogies but also provide us with a glimpse into the past and provide some ideas of geography. With enough information, the tax lists can serve as an aid in the estimation of births, deaths and even marriage dates.

Now, I must admit I was not alone in my journey. Without the aid of the expert Aaron Horner, I would have been lost. Thanks to his help and my new understanding, I was able to complete several years. The knowledge to be found in the tax lists is undeniable and they prove to be wonderful aids for any research.

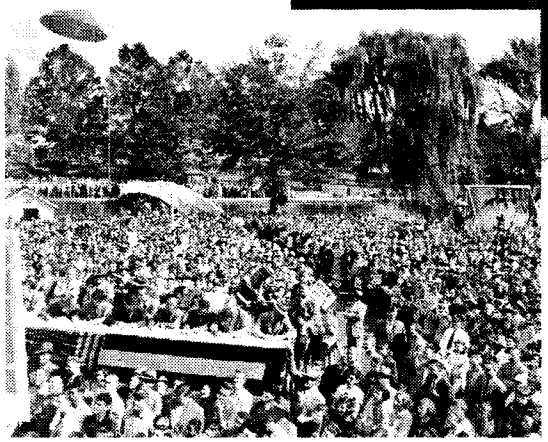
Lora Koehler is a student worker in the Nabb Research Center. She is a senior majoring in history and secondary education. She completes her undergraduate program at Salisbury University in May 2005.

Nixon in Salisbury, 1952

by Dean Kotlowski, Ph.D.

As we head into another presidential election season, and toward the 30th anniversary of the first presidential resignation in American history, it seems appropriate to reflect on one connection between Richard M. Nixon and the Delmarva Peninsula.

On October 3, 1952, Nixon, a U.S. senator from California and the Republican Party's vice presidential nominee, followed up a campaign swing through Virginia with a stop in Salisbury. These were good days for the 39-year-old Republican. He and the Grand Old Party's standard-bearer, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, were running well ahead of the Democratic ticket, headed by Governor Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois. By the autumn of 1952, with the Korean War a stalemate and President Harry S. Truman's popularity at its nadir, Eisenhower's election seemed assured. Only in September, when allegations of financial misconduct had surfaced against Nixon, did the GOP's victory seem in doubt. Yet the vice presidential nominee put those charges to rest in a masterful, televised address–the "Checkers' Speech." "After the fund crisis, the rest of the 1952 election campaign seemed pretty tame," he remembered.



Photos courtesy of Mel Toadvine collection.

On the morning of October 3, a plane carrying Nixon, his wife, Pat, and state Republican leaders landed at the Salisbury-Wicomico County Airport. The entourage was whisked to Municipal Park, where approximately 5,000 citizens had gathered. The crowd was small–organizers had anticipated as many as 25,000–but lively, as Nixon assailed the Truman administration for fighting communism with insufficient zeal. "Give 'em hell Dick," someone exclaimed, echoing the familiar refrain that had greeted Truman during his successful bid for the White House in 1948. Nixon's verbal barbs continued. The vice presidential nominee revealed that he could play the piano, but conceded: "I never did learn the Missouri Waltz," the official song of the president's home state. The crowd played along; one man asked if either of Nixon's "kids" could sing, a biting reminder of the then misplaced career aspirations of First Daughter Margaret Truman.

The most notable aspect of Nixon's remarks in Salisbury was his willingness to discuss civil rights. Here, the senator tried to sound courageous by explaining that he had been advised not to raise the racial issue on Maryland's Eastern Shore, a reference, perhaps, to memories of a pair of lynchings in Salisbury and Princess Anne two decades earlier. Nixon bristled at such restraints, declaring that the United States must "set an example to the world" and provide "moral and spiritual leadership" in the global struggle to contain communism. That included assuring equal opportunity to all Americans. His words, however brave, were not accompanied by any specific reforms. An Eisenhower administration, the senator simply stated, would handle the civil rights problem "in the traditional American manner." The audience, which had interrupted other parts of the speech with applause, listened to Nixon's comments on race in awkward silence. He then shifted to other issues before wrapping up with praise for General Eisenhower. Following the event, which lasted approximately 50 minutes, Nixon flew to Annapolis and then headed off on a tour of Baltimore's suburbs.

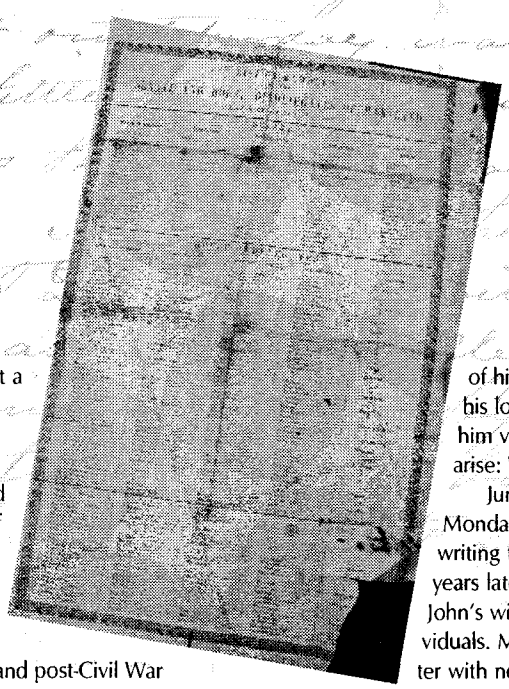
Nixon's remarks in Salisbury underscored the political hazards of civil rights. The vice presidential nominee's visits to Virginia and Maryland's Eastern Shore were part of a GOP effort to pry conservative Southern whites loose from their longstanding allegiance to the Democratic Party, an effort commentators later dubbed the "Southern Strategy." In Salisbury, for example, Nixon urged listeners to "place loyalty to country above loyalty to party" by voting for Eisenhower. By 1952, however, civil rights had emerged as a national concern, in which any misstep threatened to alienate both African-Americans and white Southerners. Nixon's remarks in Salisbury, and those in Bristol, VA, two days earlier, were predictably moderate, even cautious. In Bristol, he had called civil rights a "knotty problem" but affirmed that "any man who is good enough to fight for America" deserved equal employment opportunity. Justifying civil rights reforms by appealing to larger imperatives, such as prevailing in the Cold War or honoring patriotic service during wartime, was one way that national politicians, during the 1950s and 1960s, attempted to make racial equality palatable to white Americans.

Nixon's moderation on civil rights continued into his presidency. Among other things, Nixon tried to shift the focus of the civil rights debate from concern with racial integration of schools and neighborhoods–a searing issue among white voters–to one of expanding economic opportunity, something he espoused in the 1952 campaign and later on, during his administration, with programs to promote affirmative action and minority entrepreneurship. In 1966, Nixon told an interviewer that, over the years, he had been quite consistent on the matter of civil rights. His comments in Salisbury and Bristol, in 1952, were not an aberration, but part of that larger pattern.

Dean Kotlowski, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Salisbury University and the author of *Civil Rights: Politics, Principle and Policy* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001), which has been well received in both the historical and popular communities. Stay tuned for Dr. Kotlowski's lecture on this topic in fall 2004.

For Love of People: Family and Politics

by James Edward Jensen



The question of just who John Curtis was is not a simple question to answer, yet it remains one with some conclusions. The Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture was graced by the kindness of member Daniel Whealton who allowed the staff to scan into a digital collection portions of his vast collection of letters and documents dating to the 19th century. Although Whealton presented his collection in segments, the researchers were enthusiastic and entertained by the suspense felt while awaiting the next installment in this pre- and post-Civil War miniseries. This collection, much like a modern soap opera, presented characters such as Sarah W. Ballard and John Curtis by disclosing their personal lives through correspondence and lastly culminating with the piece de resistance–a list of the members of the Senate and House of Delegates for Maryland dating to the January 1852 session (center photo).

Beginning with a letter from William Ballard to his sister Miss Sarah Ballard, dated January 13, 1823, we find the first mention of John Curtis within this collection. In his letter William mentions that he has purchased "the best and highest priced comb [he] could find in Snow Hill." However, the most interesting aspect is that both the letter and the comb were sent via courier, namely Curtis. From this particular letter we are presented with a bountiful amount of information. Firstly, we are informed that Miss Sarah lived in Back Creek, Somerset County, and that William resided in Snow Hill. Secondly, we are introduced to Mr. L. Maddux (who held a party), Mary, George Hall, Betsey, Bobby and William's mother. Miss Sarah and her brother must have had a healthy relationship, because aside from his written inquiries, William mockingly asserts that Miss Sarah should "take care and not let Betsey fall in love with [the comb]–for fear she might take it from [her]–tell [Betsey] Bobby must get one for her as she thinks so much of him." William closes his letter by sending everyone his love and by asking Miss Sarah to correspond with him via John Curtis. Here two perturbing questions arise: Who is John Curtis and is he courting Miss Sarah?

Jumping ahead to a letter from Annapolis, dated Monday morning May 24, 1852, we find John Curtis writing to his "dear Sarah." Ah ha! Now, written nearly 30 years later, we discover that the once Miss Sarah is now John's wife. In this letter we are introduced to three individuals. Mary Ellen is referred to as having sent John a letter with news of his family. Captain James Ford is written as a messenger for John who had carried his word to Sarah. Another captain, named William Ford, is listed as a courier as well, but this man did not carry a letter, but rather brought Sarah a barrel of flour John had sent. Therefore, through his own writing, John Curtis is seen as a caring soul who cared for both his wife Sarah and his children. Aside from reading that it had rained the morning and night before, we find John mentioning that he had spent two days during the previous week in Baltimore. What was he doing in Baltimore? What was John's job? Why was he traveling so much? Well, the first clue comes from John himself, who writes that he was in Baltimore with "the delegates to the Whig state convention and enjoyed [himself] very much." Ahhh! Perhaps John is involved in some aspect of politics, but what? This question would plague inquiring minds at the Nabb Research Center for some time.

The last letter we find mentioning John Curtis comes from Clyde, Cloud County, KS. This letter to Mrs. Sarah Curtis, written by George E. Robertson, M.D., dates to May 13, 1881. The peculiarity of this correspondence remains in its unforeseen, yet reminiscent, nature. George apparently grew up in Somerset County and wrote that his sister Lizzie had mentioned a few people, among them Sarah Curtis; therefore, he became overwhelmed

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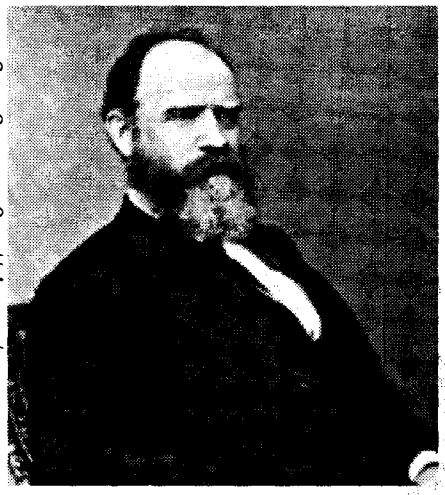
Voting in Somerset in the Midst of War

by Mercedes Quesada-Embid



John A. J. Creswell (1828-1891)
Photo courtesy of http://bioguide.congress.gov

John W. Crisfield (1806-1897) Photo courtesy of Wilson, Woodrow. 1977. *Crisfield, MD 1676-1976*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc.

Imagine. It was the time of the Civil War—a country divided—and even in the small county of Somerset tensions were high. November 1863, it was the first Wednesday of the month, Election Day. There were three parties: the conservative Union ticket with Mr. Crisfield's name on it, printed on white paper, the open Democratic ticket (similar to a write-in ticket) and the "League" or "yellow ticket," supporting Mr. Creswell. These were the candidates who had presented themselves to the people as representatives for Congress. Strangely enough, there was not much apparent difference between the two candidates of Crisfield and Creswell. Both men had originally entered politics under the Whig name, but with the decline of the Whig Party in the early 1860s they became Republicans. As Republicans, these men were in opposition to slavery, but it seems that Creswell was the more radical of the two candidates.

John W. Crisfield, after whom the town of Crisfield was later named, was the U.S. representative for this voting district from 1861-1863 for the 37th Congress. He was now running again for a second term, but he had a passionate challenger, John A.J. Creswell from Cecil County who was also known as John "Andrew Jackson" Creswell or John "Angel James" Creswell. He decided to take charge and run for the 38th Congress of 1863-1865 and due to his controversial tactics, he scored an unchallenged victory.

The polls were dispersed amongst the county. There were voters flowing toward Hungary Neck, Princess Anne and Salisbury. There were decided minds making their way to Tangier, Tyaskin, Brinkley's, Lawson's, Potato Neck, Dublin and Dame's Quarter. These people all shared the same intention, but they would not all have the same experience because at this time in Somerset County voting was not to be the private and free privilege offered to men, but rather a moment of conflict and corruption to be maintained by a threatening, military presence at each voting station.

People were accosted and told to reveal their choice for Congress. If they divulged their vote for Crisfield or even if they chose to remain silent they unintentionally gave up their right to vote. Those men that persisted in voting were allowed to vote for all positions, except that of Congressman. In an after-the-fact judicial report written to the House of Representatives, specifically, the Committee on Elections, a voter testified that where he had gone to vote "the Sergeant ... required every white ticket to be opened and shown to him, so far as to see whether Mr. Crisfield's name was on it ... The only ticket to which objection was made was the Crisfield ticket, and the only objection to that was Mr. Crisfield's name." The ballot was considered acceptable by the military if the Crisfield name was torn off or simply not on the ticket. The military forced the people who voted to swear to a Union Oath if they appeared to be Crisfield supporters. Upon swearing, they were unable to vote the white ticket, so many just refused to take the oath altogether and give up their right to vote.

Military harassment was not only stationed at the polls. Armed men went to the private homes of eligible voters and on several occasions, leading up to Election Day, kidnapped numbers of slaves and made it clear to their masters that unless their vote went to Creswell, of the yellow ticket, neither the slaves nor any type of manumission would be given them in return. One man, warned in advance by the "yellow" soldiers, testified "I had word sent to me that morning, that if I should go to the polls I should be arrested" because of his known support for Crisfield. In addition to the lack of votes received due to direct confrontation with the soldiers, many people did not go to the polls because of their "apprehension of [pending] military violence," heard through the rumors that quickly spread across the county.

This military take-over of Somerset County dramatically changed the outcome of the 1863 Congressional election. As can be seen in the written judicial report, many people were persuaded by force to vote for Creswell or not vote at all. But if votes were only accepted for the Creswell ticket, then it did not matter how many there were, if he had no opposing votes, then he was the official winner.

In the report to the House of Delegates Committee on Elections, it was stated that the following principles of the "fundamental law of the state" had been violated. According to the Declaration of Rights,

Art. 1 ... all government of right originates by the people

Art. 2 ... the people of this state ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government

Art. 5 ... Elections ought to be free and frequent, and every white male citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage

PERENNIAL POLITICS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

The Declaration of Rights was most certainly ignored this day. There still remains controversy as to whether Creswell's military hold over Somerset County was known or even permitted by Lincoln's government. Lincoln and Creswell shared the same goal of an "immediate" gradual emancipation. It seems that Crisfield, although a self-declared Unionist and known to be in favor of compensated emancipation, was not as outspoken about the urgent need for emancipation as Creswell. For example, Creswell gave many speeches in favor of the 13th Amendment to the Congress and House of Representatives. According to William H. Wroten, former chair of the History Department at Salisbury University when it was the Salisbury State Teachers College, Creswell was credited with keeping Maryland from seceding from the union. He had a lot of pull with the military. He had the duty of raising Maryland's quota of troops for the Union Army as the assistant-adjunct army general. He made public speeches toward the enlistment of black soldiers in the service of the Union and eloquent speeches regarding the need for support for Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Although Creswell's military tactics seemed harshly in opposition to the personal liberties of voters in Somerset County, on this day in 1863 Creswell's victory helped to encourage a rapid end to slavery. His organized military action was implemented for the cause of the greater good. Creswell served as congressman and was asked to become candidate for vice president in 1868, declined, and was instead appointed to President Grant's cabinet as post master general, a post he held until 1874.

Voting in Somerset represented some of the many divisions that existed throughout our country during the Civil War. These divisions were partly created, maintained and taken advantage of by the people's unwillingness to take a formal stand against slavery, a mind-set which plagued these small voting districts. Creswell's determination to put a stop to slavery made his military force a truly positive force. In the short term, the voter's rights seemed hindered, but this was only to succeed in bringing a much more permanent freedom to all people in the Eastern Shore and beyond.

Mercedes Quesada-Embid is a research assistant at the Nabb Research Center and is currently a candidate for a master's in history from Salisbury University. She completed her B.A. in Spanish and her B.S. in biology and plans to continue on to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental studies.

For Love of People: Family and Politics

continued from p 21

with nostalgia and felt the need to send word to her. Within his writing he mentioned that he had attended school with John Curtis, Tom Turpin and Thomas Ballard, but "distinctly remember[ed]" that her husband was never chastised. Another interesting discovery is found in George's mention of two women that also attended the same school; he describes Rebecca Waters as "often scolded," but names Sarah as one that he does not "recollect ever getting a harsh word." Ahhwww! What an interesting find. Had it not been for the reflective doctor we would perhaps never have discovered the full story of John and Sarah who both grew up together and grew old together as man and wife. To describe the Curtis' story with modern terminology one might suggest that John and Sarah were high school sweet hearts.

Each of the previously discussed letters corresponds with a different episode in the life and times of John Curtis. Beginning with the first letter, which depicts John as a reliable messenger and the bearer of a gift intended for the young Miss Sarah. Then, the second letter tells of a man who not only traveled, but also took the time to correspond with his wife across the bay and to send necessities and news to his new family. The third letter, nearly 30 years following the second, comes from an old and perhaps dying man, which does tie up a few loose ends and also presents John as not only a good-natured and seemingly well-behaved younger man, but also names John Curtis as one of George's best and earliest friends. We now can paint a clearer picture of John Curtis as a lover of people with friends and family, although there is one question that continued to scratch at the rear of researcher's minds: What did John do for a living? Would we ever know the answer?

Bang! Like an explosion the truth was revealed. One of the final installments of the Whealton collection was a poster dating to January 1852. This poster was essentially a list of all the members representing at the January session of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland. Wow! We can finally rest our troubled minds. There, in black ink, were the names of all 74 members of the House of Delegates. Under the county listing for Somerset four individuals were listed, namely John Curtis, John Fleming (preceded by an asterisk), William S. Waters and Benjamin Lankford. Certainly of interest to our investigation, the first entry listed John Curtis as a farmer who stayed at Mrs. Randall's boarding house and that his post office was located in Princess Anne, Somerset County.

Is it not amazing how one single document could reveal so much? Now the once mysterious occupation of John Curtis was revealed in black and white clarity. Now it all makes sense! John Curtis, the loving husband and father, was an active politician–representing Somerset County in the House of Delegates. In addition, after an exhaustive search, the final puzzle was solved. That puzzle being to find out just what was meant by the asterisks that preceded several of the names listed on the poster. The first thought was that it referenced a person's political party association. After researching nearly all the names with an asterisk only one turned up, but as a democrat; this, along with John's own admittance to meeting with the delegates to the Whig state convention, concludes with one result–that John Curtis was a Whig. Yeah! We finally figured it out at last.

The moral of this historiography is keep donating to the Nabb Research Center, because one solitary document can answer so many questions. Special thanks to donor Danny Wheaton for allowing digitization of his family's original documents for our digital collection of local materials. The Benjamin Lankford listed on the 1852 poster is the individual included in donor Suzanne Duncan's collection.

James Jensen is a research assistant at the Nabb Research Center and is currently a candidate for a master's in history from Salisbury University. Originally from Canada, he completed his B.A. in anthropology and eventually plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Colonial history.

Anna Ella Carroll Revisited

by Elizabeth B. Warbasse, Ph.D.

What better way to honor Women's History Month than to take a look backward at Anna Ella Carroll, one of Maryland's important historical figures.

Anna Ella Carroll was no exception to the truism that for most their families strongly shapes the course of their lives. She was born in 1815 at Kingston Hall, Somerset County, MD, the great granddaughter of Thomas King, a firm Presbyterian of English ancestry. King heartily disapproved when his daughter, Elizabeth Barnes King, insisted on marrying Colonel Henry James Carroll, a Catholic, but he set the young couple up on a neighboring plantation. After their second son was born they accepted King's offer to adopt their eldest son, Thomas King Carroll, to raise him and make him his heir. The boy thus grew up at Kingston Hall and received a gentleman's education under his grandfather's tutelage and then a law degree at the University of Pennsylvania. He married Julianna Stevenson of Baltimore and, at the death of his own father, who had managed the estate after the grandfather's death, Thomas King Carroll returned to Kingston Hall. Anna Ella Carroll was born there in 1815; subsequently five sisters and two brothers followed her into the household.

Photo of an engraving of Anna Ella Carrol courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society MSA SC1228.

As the oldest child she had a special relationship with her father and spent most of her time in his study reading and learning from the same law and history books that his grandfather had used to teach him. Anna Ella shared as well her father's interest and participation in politics and law but did not care for the more usual female accomplishments of sewing, music and drawing. In 1829 Thomas King Carroll ran for governor of Maryland on the Democratic ticket and won—his daughter became even more involved in political affairs. During this year Anna Ella and her sister Juliana were sent to Miss Margaret Mercer's boarding school to finish their educations. Miss Mercer was interested in the abolition of slavery but espoused gradual emancipation with compensation for owners and voluntary colonization of freed slaves. She herself bought slaves, freed them and gave passage to Liberia for those who wished it. This was a position that both Anna Ella and her father would favor when they could.

After one term, the Democrats lost the next election. Carroll, seeing the need to attend to financial affairs at Kingston, turned down the chance to run for the Senate and came home to attend to his neglected estate. Since the Carroll family had never believed in selling their excess slaves to the South, he found he had too many mouths to feed and too little payment from the declining tobacco fields to support the estate. He had also unwisely co-signed loans for indebted friends using some slaves as collateral. When the debts came due he was forced, against his beliefs, to sell three to a relative and 13 to strangers. Anna Ella attempted to repair the family finances by opening a "School for the reception of YOUNG LADIES," to teach "all the branches of English education ... which are usually attended to in Female Seminaries." By 1837 she had expanded her school by advertising for students from Baltimore and Delaware and by hiring a "French Lady" to teach French, music, drawing and painting. Her father also advertised himself as an attorney at law offering "his professional services to the public." All to no avail. Debts mounted as the Panic of 1837 decimated the Maryland economy. The Kingston estate was sold to John Upshur Dennis who also agreed to keep half of the remaining slaves, while those with close personal relations to the family accompanied the Carrolls to Warwick Fort Manor, a smaller house on the Choptank River. When her father in 1853 began to sell off these remaining slaves to pay his debts, Anna Ella stepped in to save them. She began to visit abolitionists in New York and Boston to ask for contributions to pay off the remaining slave mortgages. In this manner she raised enough money to repay four thousand dollars of debt, but this time, instead of keeping the slaves in the family, she saw that they went free.

Anna Ella soon moved to Baltimore to try to find a way to help support her family. She turned to her pen and started writing promotional pieces for the railroad lobby, but also she started to communicate with Washington politicians. In 1849 she successfully petitioned for a job for her father as naval officer of Baltimore. Over the course of time she perfected her appeal technique not only for her father but also for others, and her political skills and influence grew. She made use of her family name by playing up her family connection to the Baltimore Carrolls, flattering the person she wrote to and placing herself in the feminine caretaker role. When she communicated with William Henry Seward, for instance, to ask him to use his influence to find a post for her father, she wrote " I feel you can appreciate the exertions of a daughter for a dear and honored Parent."

In 1855, as the Whig party grew weaker, Carroll began writing campaign material for the anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic, Know-Nothing Party, soon to be called the American Party. In her book, *The Great American Battle, or, the Contest Between Christianity and Political Romanism*, Carrol, stressed the dangers arising from foreign immigration and the Pope. She appealed to women, in their role of nurturers and educators, as those who control the development of those who would control the future. They must warn against the Catholic control of education and dispel the "Papal despotism" from America. The press and men should also work for these goals. In supporting the concept of the Republican mother as women's place in politics, Carroll disassociated herself from the more overtly political woman's rights movement espoused by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. In urging women to read *The Great American Battle*, Carroll wrote, "Let no cry of 'woman's rights' deter you. That charge has no significance in a work like this."

Carroll's relationship with the presidential candidate, Fillmore, however, was frequently strained. She had an elevated conception of her own importance and was easily hurt if she felt slighted. When she sent notes asking to see Fillmore to which he did not respond she wrote:

> Excuse me for this intrusion, but it is due myself that I say I am not insensible to a discourtesy, to say nothing of what I regard as disrespect. Tho I bear no regal title of queen or empress I should be loth to

believe I was on this account the less entitled to consideration. ...

After the election she requested a letter of support from Fillmore to use in promoting her books. "I intend to disseminate my 3 works wherever I go and mean to be a power yet in this land, which it will be well to propitiate." Fillmore obliged with a letter and was later horrified to find that Carroll had modified it to be more favorable and then added it to a promotional announcement of a dinner to be given in her honor. Fillmore asked for his letter back and after more impassioned exchanges, the incident was put to rest.

In the ensuing four years the growing sectionalism between North and South caused many Know-Nothings to shift their allegiance to the Republican Party. Among them was Anna Ella Carroll, who now placed most of her efforts on trying to establish a working relationship with Republicans, Weed and Seward, in New York. Surprised by the unexpected nomination of Lincoln, she feared that Southern leaders would now try to leave the Union. Since Lincoln's inauguration in Washington would not take place until March 4, she quickly realized that her home state of Maryland was threatened by secession. If this took place Washington would be cut off from the North and the Union might well be lost. Thomas Hicks, the Maryland governor, was a Know-Nothing and an old family friend whose election as governor Carroll had supported in 1857 and 1859.

She wrote Hicks that a successful inauguration depended more on his "individual firmness than upon all other men in the nation." When Maryland secessionists demanded that he call a special legislative session hoping that they could push through a call for a secession convention, Hicks put them off, recommending that they allow Congress to meet, let Lincoln be inaugurated and "wait with calmness the progress of events."

Carroll supported Hicks throughout this period and wrote supportive newspaper articles in his behalf. On April 19 when the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment was attacked by a Baltimore mob she wrote Hicks that, "You cannot deny the right of transit to the Northern troops through the territory of Maryland, called by the President to defend their capital and your own." When Hicks finally called for a special legislative session in April he moved the meeting place from Annapolis to the Unionist city of Frederick in western Maryland. There the legislature voted that it did not have the power to consider secession and that it would not call a convention that could grant it that power. Soon thereafter Union troops occupied Baltimore and Unionist control was established.

During the next year Carroll turned her pen to supporting the legality of the war itself. Unlike her articles in the 1856 campaign, she made no apologies about being a woman, but wrote directly about her subject. In her "Reply to Breckenridge," the Kentucky senator who had attacked Lincoln for exceeding his Constitutional powers, Carroll blamed the South for starting the war. Lincoln, as commander-in-chief, was merely defending the nation against these threats in order to preserve it. She also defended the president's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Martial law superseded civil law when it was used for the preservation of the civil law. She printed 10,000 copies of the pamphlet to send to the border states to influence public opinion and also in the hope that she might be hired by the War Department as a publicist. When she met with Secretary of War Thomas A. Scott in October 1861 she was left with the impression she could bill the War Department for the printing and labor costs of pamphlets she wrote.

In December 1861 she published *The War Powers of the General Government*, again supporting Lincoln's actions but also using the pamphlet to expound her idea that the federal government could not legally interfere with the institution of slavery. She wanted to restore the union with slavery intact because she thought it necessary for the Southern economy and society. In another pamphlet, *The Relation of the National Government to the Revolted Citizens*, Carroll entered her arguments against Charles Sumner who had stated that Confederates were criminals and enemies and the North should "pursue and punish them." Carroll, however, argued that, in spite of the war, the Union remained and Confederates were still citizens and should be so treated.

By now Carroll must have realized that some type of emancipation would result from war. At the same time that she was writing her pamphlets, she was also exploring the possibilities of colonization for freed slaves. She worked with a New York merchant, Aaron Columbus Burr, who had land in British Honduras and wanted the Department of the Interior to buy it as a settlement for ex-slaves. Carroll presented the plan to Lincoln arguing that British Honduras was a better choice than Liberia or Haiti. Although Carroll failed to win Lincoln to her point of view, she did articulate the concerns of the Border States. She herself accepted free blacks in society after the war and turned her attention elsewhere once emancipation was accomplished. She now embarked on what would become the most controversial project of her career–military strategy in the war in Tennessee.

After making an oral agreement with Assistant Secretary of War Thomas A. Scott to write more pamphlets for the War Department, Carroll went to St. Louis, accompanied by Lemuel Evans, a long-time friend. While there she talked to knowledgeable people to try to find a better way to invade the area than by the heavily fortified Mississippi River. Her maps showed that there were two other rivers, the Tennessee and the Cumberland, that flowed parallel to the Mississippi and that might be used as invasion routes. By chance, in the boarding house where she was staying lived Anna Scott whose husband, Captain Charles M. Scott, was a riverboat pilot and would become a key player in the drama. He assured Carroll that the two rivers were deep enough for gunboats and provided other practical information based on his familiarity with the area. Carroll returned to Washington and by November 30 she met with Colonel Thomas Scott at the War Department with her detailed plan, which Scott then sent on to Lincoln and Generals Halleck and Grant. In February Union forces under Grant did move up the Tennessee and captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. Nashville surrendered shortly after and Grant moved on to Shiloh.

In actual fact it is now believed that plans to use the Tennessee River and capture forts Henry and Donelson were already afoot before Carroll unfurled her November plan but had been held up by lack of supplies and conflict between army and navy. Carroll, however, always believed that the ideas for the winter campaign came from her. In June 1852, she wrote Lincoln: "if this expedition was planned ... upon any other suggestions ... if it originated with any one else, I am not aware of it. ... if the plan of the Western campaign was based upon the facts, furnished by me, to the Secretary of War ... I ought now to have a substantial and liberal recognition of this service."

Carroll, who lived from her writings, believed that according to her oral contract with Assistant Secretary of War Thomas A. Scott she should be compensated $50,000 for her pamphlets "Reply to Breckenridge," *The War Powers*, "The Reply to Sumner" and "Tennessee River Report." Later when she proposed this sum to Lincoln combined with the suggestion that he

send her to Europe as a pro-Union propagandist, he told her that her proposal was "The most outrageous one ever made to any government on earth. (Lincoln at that time had a salary of $25,000 as president of the United States.)

During this time Charles Scott, the riverboat pilot who had originally given Carroll the information about navigability of the Western Rivers, upon which her report was based, had continued to send her information. Eventually, the two became bitter enemies as both made claims for recognition and compensation at which they both failed. In 1879 the Senate Committee on Military Affairs finally decided against Carroll's claims, saying that the $2,000 she had received for her pamphlets was enough. For a woman to ask for money "would destroy much of the poetry and grandeur of noble deeds."

Eventually, Carroll's claim would be taken up by the Suffragist movement, and her story included in the *1881 History of Woman Suffrage*. Subsequently, there have been a whole series of books about Anna Ella Carroll of varying degrees of scholarship, accuracy and empathy. The early books, largely adulatory, portray her as a heroine who never received credit for her ideas and efforts because she was a woman. More recent scholarship attempts to strike a balance between her valid contributions and her self-seeking search for fame. Each generation discovers her anew. Watch for a new book by E. Kay Larson, which will soon cast a wide net to more fully evaluate Carroll's military efforts.

Dr. Elizabeth B. Warbasse resides in Kingston Hall in Somerset County and first became interested in Anna Ella Carroll when working on the *Dictionary of Notable American Women*.

The Culture of the Silkworm

by James Edward Jensen

Opening a new book is always adventurous and certainly akin to monumental personal discovery, but the day *Adventures of Purse and Person: Virginia 1607-1624/5* was opened a whole new can of worms was unleashed. The adventure began with the discovery of a secret two-page insert found quietly nestled between pages 140 and 141. Titled simply "The Culture of the Silk Worm," these un-numbered, treasured pages display four illustrations, which in turn depict the four basic stages of the silkworm culture that were taken from the original depictions found in a letter from the king to the earl of South-Hampton and a treatise on making silk, both by John Bonoeil in London, 1622. These four cuttings portray the feeding of the worms, the placement of rods to encourage the worm's silk production, the cods and eggs of the silk worms, and finally the caldrons and fire necessary to extract the silk from the collected cods. As the superintendent of the Royal Silk Establishment at Oatland, the work of Bonoeil was published to help promote and popularize the production of Virginian silk.

In 1622 the 18-year-old William Bernard arrived in Virginia. Over the following 20 years William left the colony a few times on personal adventures and transported 20 persons, all of which would amount to his acquisition of the right to patent 1,200 acres on the Isle of Wight. He was greatly interested in the prospect of cultivating silk, since the mulberry trees that were used to feed the worms abounded, but the required highly skilled laborers were virtually non-existent. Surprisingly the proposed silkworm culture had been seemingly successfully introduced in Virginia, although the dominating demand for tobacco, with its unskilled workers, came to surpass the potential profits of silk with the known marketability of the smokeable stuff. This marked but one of the two major blows to the ill-fated future of the silkworm culture.

Edward Digges, after immigrating to Virginia around the year 1650, purchased 1,200 acres in York County on the south side of the York River and patented a further 3,050 acres in Gloucester County on the north side of the York River. In addition to his land holdings, Digges' wealth can be seen through his actions as he paid for the transportation of two Armenians to assist him in his experimental silkworm business. In a letter dated to 1654, Digges stated that he had extracted 8 pounds of silk and had amassed 10 pounds of silkworm eggs; eggs which he had expected to disperse among enthusiastic future silk farmers. However, as it had in the past, the culture of the silkworm would receive its final and fatal blow from the profit producing tobacco industry. As a mark of recognition for his personally funded efforts to promote the culture of the silkworm in the colony, Digges was nominated to the office of auditor of the colony, yet he died shortly thereafter at the age of 15 on March 15, 1675/6. His gravestone immortalized one phrase, which named Digges as "A gentleman of most commendable parts and Ingenuity, the only introducer and promoter of the silk manufacture in this Colonie."

Polly Stewart, retired SU professor and founder of the Folklore Archives

Retiring Board Members

We would like to express our appreciation to these retiring members of our Advisory Board of Directors. They have devoted many years of selfless service and support to advance the goals of the Nabb Research Center and its services to our community of students and researchers. Their guidance will be missed.

George Gering, past chair and founding member of board

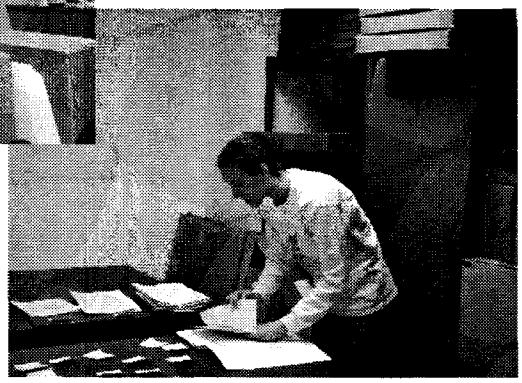
Jean Mihalyka, Northampton County historian.

Polly Batchelder, immediate past secretary

Dawn Manyfeathers presented a Native American basketweaving workshop in November

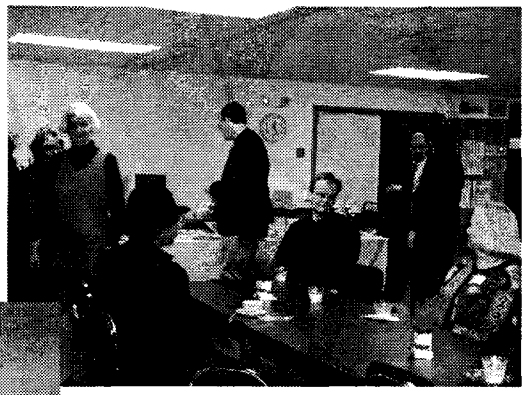
Jean Anderton of CJZ Photography and Rebecca Brooks, Nabb Center archivist, presented a photo preservation workshop in September

Native American basketweaving workshop in November (attendee unknown)



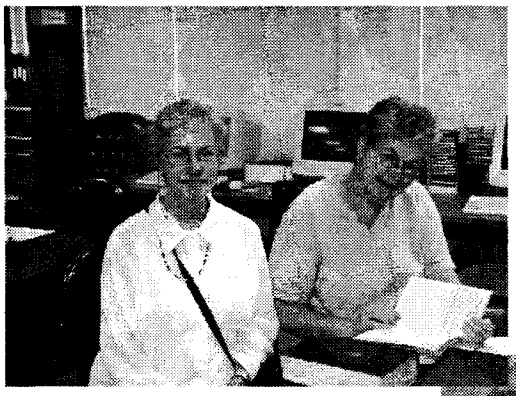
Erin McKenzie, SU senior, interning in Nabb archives

Gamma Iota members from Berlin met for a Nabb Center tour. Left to Right: Anne Wolfsheimer, Mary Jane Blossfield, Gloria E. Klund, Ruth Post, Helen Malone, Marilyn Stephanye and Charlotte Barrett.

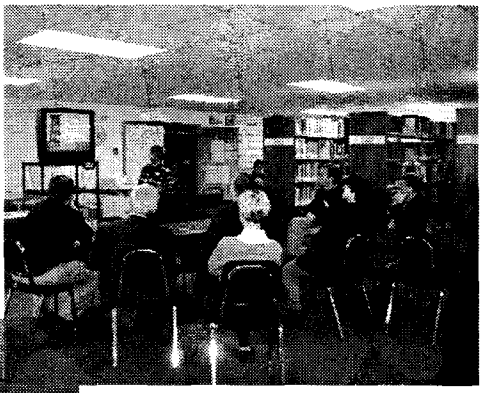


Staff and visitors enjoy a holiday cup of tea

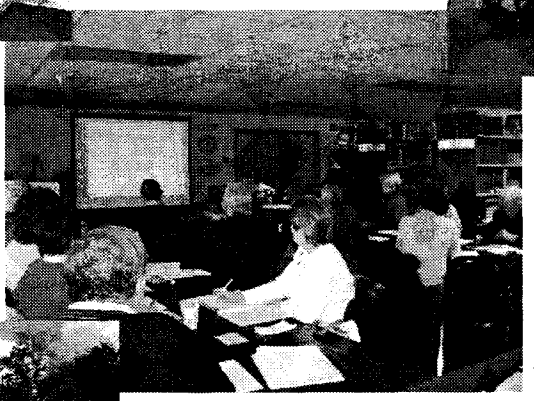
Archaeology interns Alex Giudice and Tasha Jones



Lola Taylor and Barbara Walton visiting from Claremont, CA, and Berlin, MD, researching family history

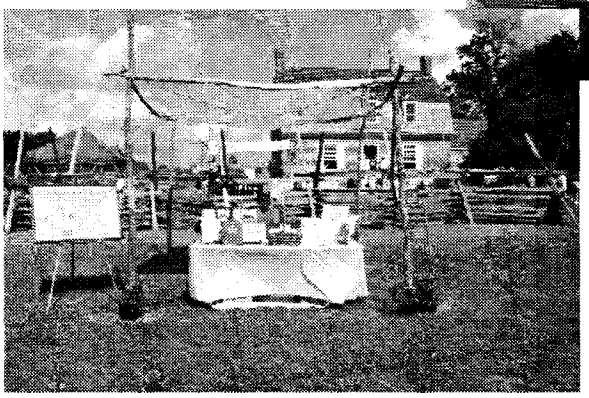


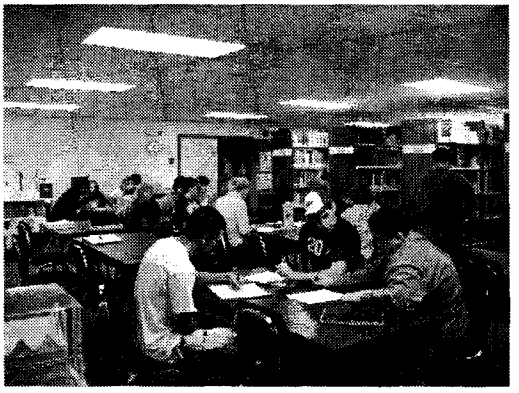
Iris Powell of the Nabb Center shows a Power Point presentation to new Advisory Board members



Family History Workshop presented by Dr. Ray Thompson in January

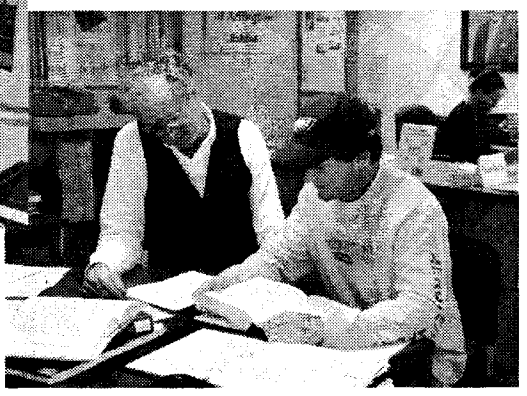
James Jensen helps out at the Pemberton Hall Foundation Fair





Students in Dr. Jeanne Whitney's U.S. History class

Becca Brooks, assists Jill Jeffrey in doing research for a third grade history class at St. Francis de Sales



Dr. Ray Thompson and graduate student Brian Frable

The Joshua Thomas Chapel

by T. Aaron Horner

Prior to 1850, all inhabitants of Deal Island, Somerset County, MD both black and white, worshiped together at the Wallace Chapel. As the congregation grew, a new church needed to be built. On July 26, 1850, Charles Parks and his wife Britannia deeded one-half acre of land to the trustees of the Deal Island Church for the construction of a new place of worship. By the end of the year, the Joshua Thomas Chapel was completed. The former church continued to be used by the Island's black congregation until fire destroyed the building years later. Today, the John Wesley Church sits upon that site. Architecturally, a Greek-Revival style with a gable front, the Joshua Thomas Chapel served the Island's white congregation during the third quarter of the 19th century. As the Island's population continued to grow, a new church, the St. John's M.E. Church, was constructed in front of the chapel in 1879.

Over the years, weather and age have taken its toll on this 150-year-old structure. Less than three years ago, the chapel would have been condemned unless major renovations were made. The foundation was giving way; the roof as well as the windows and door needed major repairs. On February 3, 2002, the Joshua Thomas Historical Group was formed, spear-headed by the Reverend Henry Zollinhofer and William "Bill" Hipkiss. The first priority was securing a new concrete foundation. On April 26, 2002, Expert House Movers, the same organization that moved the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in 1999, lifted the chapel off its old foundation. With the completion of the new foundation by mid-summer, the chapel was lowered and most of the bricks from the old foundation were used to front the new. Over the next year, major renovations were conducted on the chapel. A new roof was installed while the building itself received a new coat of paint on the inside and out. The windows and door were repaired. Inside, a new carpet was installed and the pews and furniture repainted. Finally, a 40-foot handicap ramp was built. Behind the pulpit, a large portrait of Joshua Thomas, taken from an engraved image of *The Parson Of The Island* book, was hung. To raise funds needed to restore the chapel, a number of projects were established, such as monthly sub sales and sales of gold and silver lapel pins, cookbooks, T-shirts, tote bags, and homemade candies and cookies. Donations were sent from as far away as California and England.

The chapel was completed in time for Labor Day weekend 2003, also coined "Joshua Thomas Day" due to his birth date, August 30, 1776, in close proximity to the holiday. On Sunday, December 7, 2003, the rededication of the Joshua Thomas Chapel took place. People from near and far came out to see the hard work that had been placed into restoring the chapel. Thanks to the restoration, this will be one Delmarva landmark that will continue to stand for many more years.

For more information on Joshua Thomas, see http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu then click on "links" and scroll down to the "History" heading until you see "Joshua Thomas."

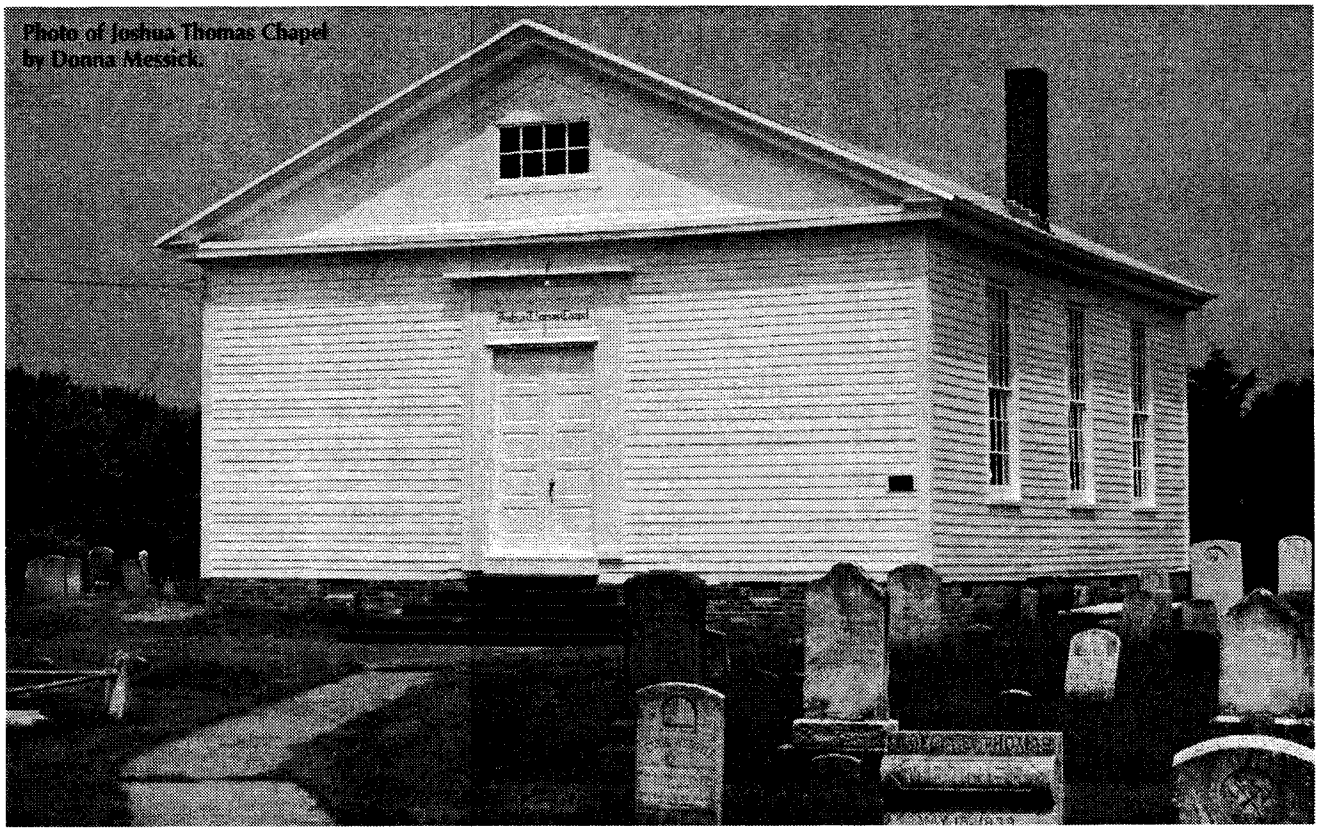


Photo of Joshua Thomas Chapel by Donna Messick.

Working in the Folklore Archives: A Madeleine for Memory

by Polly Stewart, Ph.D.

As the time neared for my retirement from the faculty at Salisbury University, after a 30-year career teaching folklore and other subjects, I arranged to spend my last sabbatical semester, fall 2003, working in the Nabb Research Center's folklore archives.

A university folklore archives is made up of the semester projects of students who collect and analyze traditional expressive materials–folklore–in folklore courses. Unlike other academic projects, which some students consign to the circular file once the course is over, student folklore archives projects are produced in the knowledge that these works will be preserved for the future, permanent documents of state-of-the-culture vernacular expression of a certain place and time and social context. Folklore archives, like all archives, have a tremendous potential value to later researchers.

When I joined the Salisbury State College English faculty in 1973, a small folklore archives already reposed in a file cabinet left by my predecessor, who had taught folklore here between 1968 and 1973. I added my own students' projects to the cabinet and eventually to a second cabinet, but by 1988, after years of housing this growing folklore archives in my crowded office, it was a relief to be invited by my history colleagues Ray Thompson and Sylvia Bradley to transfer the folklore archives to the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

I always knew that the folklore archival materials would have to be prepared for use by outside researchers. I wanted to do this work myself but had neither the time nor the archival expertise. In 1990 I received major assistance toward that goal from a history graduate student, Amy Crittenden, and help in subsequent years from small numbers of undergraduate folklore students working for brief periods among the collections. Anticipating my retirement, I consulted with Nabb Center Archivist Rebecca Brooks and with American Folklife Center Archivist Michael Taft; they provided me with the resources needed for the job, and I gleefully undertook it in the fall of 2003.

What has it been like to return to the folklore projects of students I taught decades ago? At the emotional level, the simple rereading of words laboriously typed on yellowed paper–the taste of a madeleine–has struck me with sometimes amazing force by the invocation of long-vanished Salisbury State College venues and by flashes of memory: names, faces, moments, configurations of chairs and chalkboards. At the intellectual level, I have been gratified to see that, despite three decades of enormous change in quantity of available information and in modes of communication, students were pretty much the same 30 years ago as they are now. Some of them got the program, some didn't. I have never encountered a student who lacked the ability to do college-level work, but I have come across many students who were confused, resentful or distracted by other priorities and so did not produce successful college-level work. Revisiting the student folklore projects serves as a reminder that some of the projects were, and are (because of the above), leaden. Others are golden–keenly observed, clearly reported crisply analyzed, beautifully written. But in an archives, no project, however ill-devised, is worthless. To prepare these materials now for public access is a source of great satisfaction, a tying-up of threads at career's end.

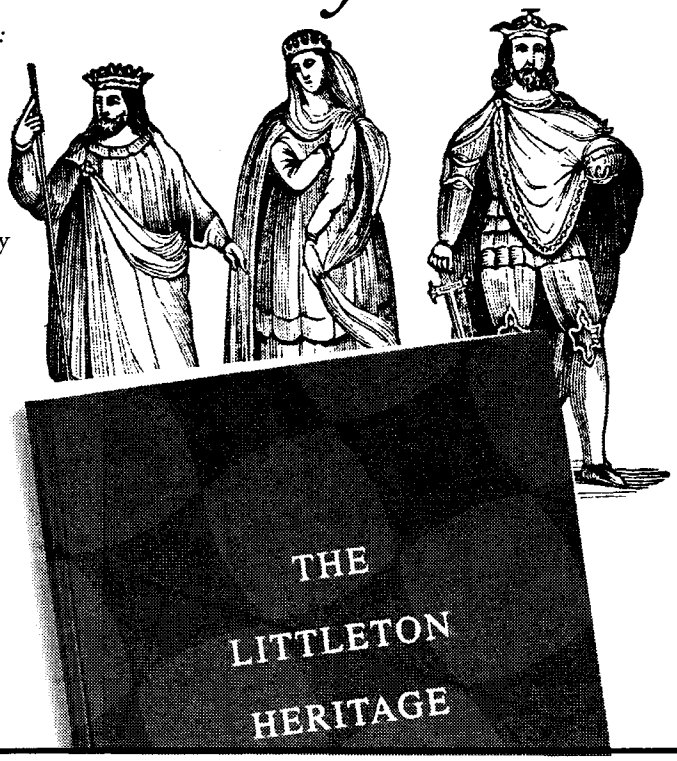
Polly Stewart, a retired English professor from Salisbury University, taught courses on folklife, medieval literature, Norse literature and mythology.

Claim Your Royal Heritage

Get your copy of *The Littleton Heritage: Some Descendants of Colonel Nathaniel Littleton (1605-1654) of Northhampton County, Virginia and His Royal Forbears* by Dr. Matthew Wise at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

This meticulously-researched history of the Littleton family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia is one of the most complete genealogies of the Littletons and descendant surnames, including:

- Bell
- Denwood
- Eyre
- Fassitt
- Gilliss
- Long
- Pollitt
- Purnell
- Roach
- Robins
- Savage
- Tazewell
- Tingle
- Waters
- Whittington
- Wilson
- Winder
- ...and many others



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The Edgar T. Bennett Collection: An Archival Experience

by Erin McKenzie

If someone were to ask "How much fun is it to remove hundreds of rusty staples and paper clips from documents covered with dust, mold and dead insect parts?" most people would reply "Probably not much fun at all." I, however, beg to differ. Led by Becca Brooks, the Nabb Center's fabulous archivist, I have learned to appreciate the fine art of "making boxes and writing on folders with pencil."

At the onset of my archival internship this past fall, I was given the great task of processing the Edgar T. Bennett collection. The collection is a mass of documents, artifacts, photographs and other assorted materials pertaining to the life and family of the illustrious Eastern Shore native. With 44 boxes the collection seemed almost monstrous. Little did I know that Charles Emery, collection donor and Bennett's nephew, would bestow even more materials on me before the semester was through!

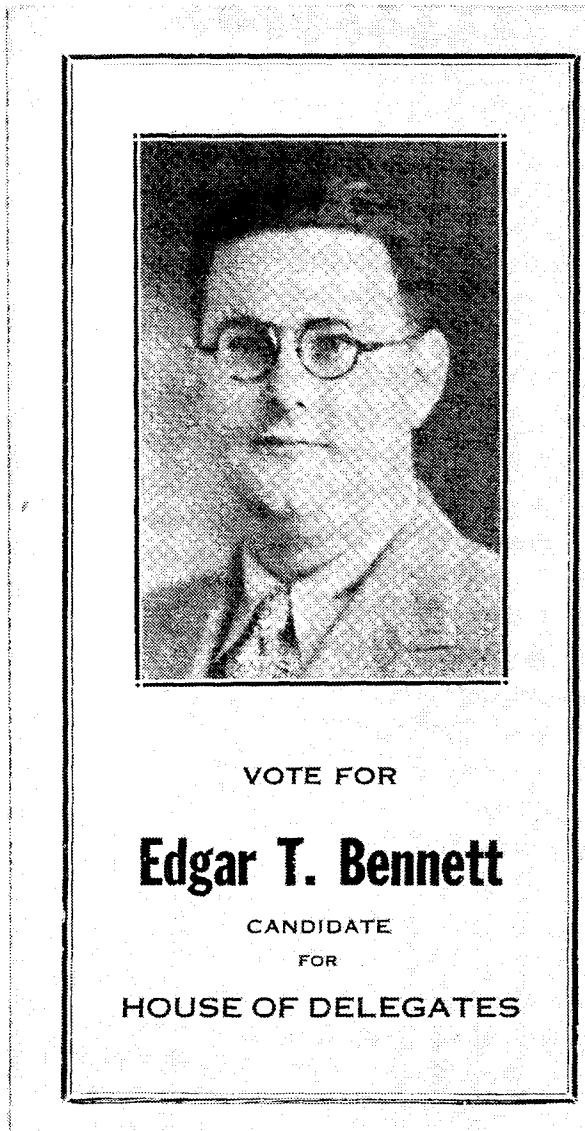
My very first assignment, however, was to read up on some basic archival principles. Becca called it "cramming what I learned in two years of grad school into a semester." I felt pretty optimistic undertaking this feat. Armed with my new knowledge of fonds, series and sub-series I tackled the first step–inventory. The inventory was a time-consuming process that involved perusing the entire collection, box by box and folder by folder, in order to record the types of materials included. I also incorporated some basic preservation techniques into my inventory; this involved removing those hundreds of rusty staples and paper clips I mentioned earlier. One note to the wise: If you plan on keeping a small group of documents together for longer than a couple of months please do not fasten them together with a metal paper clip or staple. Plastic paper clips work just as well, plus they do not leave those pesky rust stains.

During the inventory I came across many interesting items and I learned a lot about the many facets of Bennett's life. Born in 1905 in Mardela Springs, Edgar went to school for business and, after working in Philadelphia for some time, married a nice girl named Margaret Truitt, also from Mardela Springs. Just to highlight a few of his accomplishments (space is a factor in this article) Bennett co-owned Red Star Motor Coaches, served on the Maryland State Roads Commission, managed the Coach Room (the dining room in the Holiday Inn which still stands on North Route 13), achieved 33 degree status with the Scottish Rite and, in the 1950s, was elected to and served in the Maryland State Senate. Edgar and Margaret enjoyed participating in countless civic organizations, traveling with friends, Avery and Kitty Hall, and attending Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

During the spring 2004 semester I continue arranging the collection and the task of imposing on it an artificial order. It should be challenging, but fun. With the help of Becca Brooks, my able and spunky supervisor, I hope to have the collection ready for researchers by the end of the semester.

Edgar & Margaret Bennett, at their Ocean City beachouse, circa 1950s.

Erin McKenzie, a Salisbury native, is a Salisbury University senior with a major in history and a minor in gender studies. She graduates in May 2004 and plans to go on to directly pursue her master's in history.



1930s Census

by James Edward Jensen

I would like to take the time to inform you about the newest addition to the U.S. Census shelves. The 1930s U.S. Census was opened April 1, 2002, and now can be found gracing the collection at the Nabb Research Center. Just because it's on microfilm does not mean that it has been available to the public for a long time. The U.S. Census records are only made available after a 72-year federal lockdown, thereby protecting the personal information contained within.

The most important bit of information recorded in the 1930s Census is located in the top right corner and contains the Enumeration District (ED). According to the Delaware Genealogical Society, the ED number was established by the Census Bureau based on population, preceded by a county number assigned alphabetically by state. This will be the key for researchers wishing to unlock the door for further genealogical studies.

The columns on the census form are as follows*:

Page 1

1. Street, avenue, road, etc.
2. House number.
3. Number of dwelling house in order of visitation (assigned by the enumerator).
4. Number of family in order of visitation (assigned by the enumerator).
5. Name of each person whose place of abode on April 1,1930, was in this family.
6. Relationship of this person to the head of the household.
7. Home owned or rented.
8. Value of home if owned or monthly rental if rented.
9. Radio set (an attempt to ascertain the acceptance of new technology and plan infrastructure).
10. Does the family live on a farm?
11. Sex.
12. Color or race.
13. Age at last birthday.
14. Marital condition.
15. Age at first marriage.
16. Attended school or college at any time since September 1, 1929.
17. Whether able to read and write.
18. Place of birth of person.
19. Place of birth of father.

Page 2

(Beginning with the name in column 5)

20. Place of birth of mother.
21. Language spoken in home before coming to the United States.
22. Year of immigration to the United States.
23. Naturalization.
24. Whether able to speak English.
25. Occupation - trade, profession or kind of work.
26. Industry - industry or business (Used to differentiate among people with similar occupation names).
27. Class of worker.
28. Employment - Yes or No.
29. Employment - If not the number on Unemployment Schedule.
30. Veteran - Yes or No.
31. Veteran - What war or expedition?
32. Number of farm schedule.

** The 32-item list has been compiled by the generosity of the Delaware Genealogical Society.*

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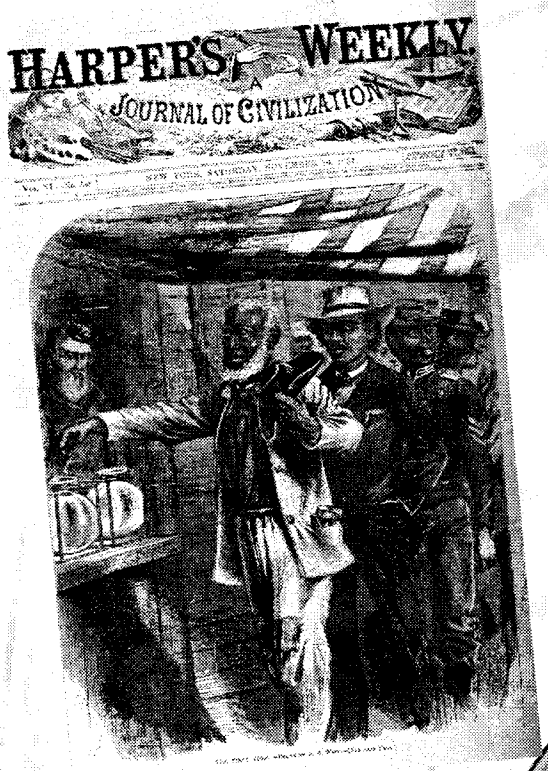
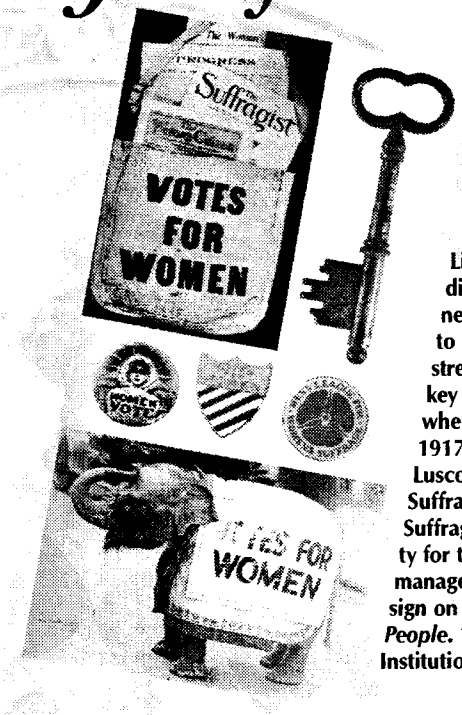
Political Images of the Past



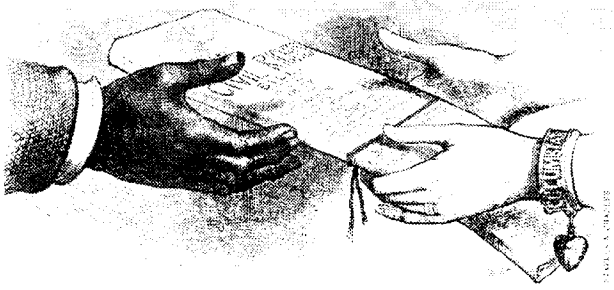
Negroes voting for the first time from *Harper's Weekly*, November 16, 1867.

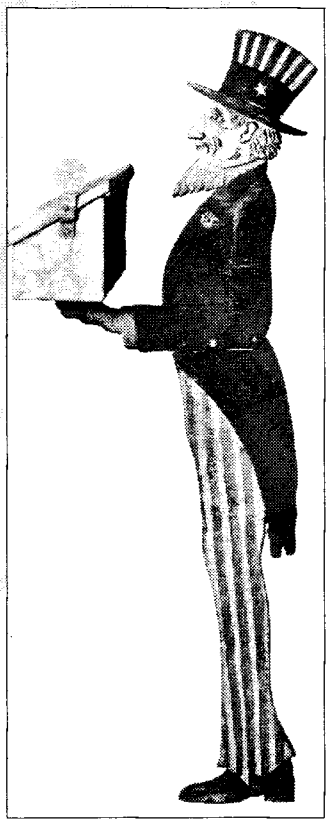


Literature bag used by suffragettes to distribute pro-suffrage materials. The newpapers and magazines were used to promote the women's movement by street-corner saleswomen. This was the key to the District of Columbia jail, where suffragettes were imprisoned in 1917. Women suffrage buttons. Florence Luscomb of National American Women's Suffrage Association and the Boston Equal Suffrage Association gained clever publicity for the suffrage cause by persuading the manager of a small traveling circus to put a sign on his elephant. (Courtesy of *We The People*. 1975. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.)

Thomas Nast engraving from *Harper's Weekly*, April 24, 1875, of Columbia, the symbol of American liberty, guaranteeing Civil Rights protection to Negroes.

Courtesy of *We The People*. 1975. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.





Twentieth-century cast-iron Uncle Sam mailbox stand courtesy of *We The People*. 1975. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.

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